

Serbian-Croat fighting erupts

Slovenia rejects ultimatum from Belgrade

From Roger Boyes in Ljubljana

THE Yugoslav presidency last night thundered out an ultimatum to the breakaway republic of Slovenia, demanding the fast release of prisoners, the immediate withdrawal of resistance units and the return of international border crossings to federal control.

The Slovene president, Milan Kucan, immediately rejected the demands, saying: "Ultimatums lead to ultimatums and then follow war."

The menacing tone of the federal statement and its swift rejection raised tensions in Slovenia, where Yugoslav soldiers had been returning peacefully to their barracks, and bitter fighting erupted in Croatia.

Two members of the Croatian national guard were killed and two wounded during several hours of shooting with armed Serbs at Celje in eastern Croatia yesterday and two more guardsmen and a civilian were wounded in another clash at Osijek.

Croatian authorities also



reacted angrily to a move into the republic's territory from neighbouring Serbia by federal army units and Chetniks (Serbian nationalist fighters), some of whom crossed the Danube in rubber dinghies. The information minister, Hrvoje Hitić, said 10 army armoured personnel carriers, accompanied by Chetnik forces, had taken up positions in the Baranje region of Croatia near the Hungarian border on Wednesday. He said the Chetniks planned to claim Baranje for Serbia.

The terms of the Slovene ceasefire had been worked out by the federal president, Stipe Mesic, earlier this week, but they were sharpened yesterday when he presented it for approval to the collective presidency in Belgrade. The most controversial new demand was for border crossing points to be returned to federal control by Sunday.

The Slovene information minister, Jelko Kacin, said the demand was unacceptable and would not be carried out. "Yugoslavia no longer has orders with Italy or Austria. As it is impossible to awaken the dead, it is also impossible to restore the situation that used to exist in Slovenia."

Other conditions were being met in line with a detailed disengagement agreement worked out in Zagreb on Wednesday night the Slovene and army leaderships. Nevertheless, Mr Kacin said that his country still considered that it was in a state of war with Yugoslavia. It would end only when the ceasefire became a written peace treaty binding on both sides. The army countered with an accusation that the Ljubljana government

was not treating the truce seriously, adding: "This means a real possibility of this time opening a war operation of very serious dimensions."

Ante Markovic, the federal prime minister, yesterday confessed that the federal army had slipped from political control and admitted that he had not been consulted on the Yugoslav army's movements over the past few days. "The federal government was not consulted or informed directly on any of the actions of the army," he said.

There were suggestions last night that the tone and wording of the ultimatum may have been toughened because the army is preparing for a second strike against Slovenia and wants to carry out the operation with full constitutional backing. If Slovenia refused to hand over border posts, the army would feel that it had carte blanche to move its troops out of barracks again.

Slovene units are already meeting many of the purely military demands. Barricades, usually immobilised lorries, were being hauled off the highway yesterday, although outside Ljubljana they were being replaced by 5 ft high anti-tank barriers improvised from pieces of railway track. Most of the resistance units, known as territorial defence forces, had disappeared from the street and no shooting incidents were reported.

The Slovenes have also given way on their demands that Yugoslav soldiers be stripped of their weapons before returning to barracks and negotiations are under way with the Red Cross to release federal soldiers taken prisoner during the fighting. Slovene officials insist that they will keep captured vehicles and weapons until the Yugoslav army or federal authorities settle compensation claims.

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Back in the saddle: the Prince of Wales yesterday ignored warnings that he could suffer irreparable back problems when he returned to the polo field. Last month, he cancelled engagements because of severe pain but yesterday he completed a bruising charity match at Windsor on the winning side. Major Ronald Ferguson, his polo manager, said: "It was a good comeback. He's fit to play and happy with his back."

MoD cuts civilian jobs

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Ministry of Defence is to lose 35,000 civilian jobs at home and abroad over the next few years, in line with cuts in armed forces personnel under the government's Operations Change review. The 20 per cent cut will involve 20,000 posts in the United Kingdom and 15,000 abroad.

Officials emphasised that 35,000 people were not about to be made redundant. Many personnel will go to other areas of the civil service and the ministry hopes to make savings through early retirement and natural wastage.

There are bound to be some redundancies, particularly in areas where the armed services are closing bases. It has been announced that four RAF stations are to close, and their civilian staff are likely to be out of a job.

Some posts earmarked to be scrapped are at the top of the main headquarters in London. A study of the most senior staff in the three services and in the central staff revealed

overlapping and duplication. One civil servant involved in the study said that the various assistant chiefs of defence staff all had their own private offices, which created a whole series of jobs. These executive layers are to be streamlined.

The cuts in civil service posts were recommended by a study by officials, with private-sector help. Christopher Littmoden, group finance director of Marks & Spencer, sat in on the meetings. His contribution to the scaling down of the ministry mirrored work by Lord Rayner, a former M&S chairman, who assisted the government's civil service efficiency exercise in the early Eighties.

Under the latest review, many of the 25 defence ministry buildings throughout London are to be sold as staff are either redeployed to the provinces or lose their jobs.

The civil service cuts were announced yesterday by Tom King, the defence secretary. His statement that the ministry's Whitehall building, housing 14,500 civilian and uniformed staff, and other support headquarters are to be slimmed down, finally removed opposition suspicions that civil servants would escape substantial cuts to be suffered by armed services.

Staff numbers at the ministry building in Whitehall will fall by about 7,000, although many of those are being relocated. About 2,000 logistics staff are to be moved from London and 4,000 personnel from the procurement executive are moving to the West Country. The 7,000 include uniformed personnel.

There are 140,000 civilian staff at home and abroad, down from 250,000 in 1979.

Mark Owen-Lloyd and Jo Burge, who formerly worked in the City but who now run Fullbore Motors, in Kensington, want to import cars from Hindustan Motors, the Calcutta manufacturer which has put tens of thousands of Oxfords, renamed the Hindustan Ambassador, onto the streets of India's cities.

Mr Owen-Lloyd says that he has already taken 600 inquiries for the Ambassador. Continued on page 24, col 6



Classic dignity: the Morris Oxford, back from the fifties plant on Merseyside is geared up to produce 1,100 Escorts and Orion cars a day, well below current sales. However, two spots of optimism brightened the four-wheeled gloom. Nicholas Hayek, the man who saved the Swiss watch industry with his cheap and cheerful Swatch watches, says he wants to build thousands of equally cheap and cheerful plastic cars of the future, in partnership with Volkswagen.

Enterprise car dealers in London, meanwhile, want to cash in on nostalgia and import a version of the Morris Oxford of 32 years ago, still being made in India. Both cars could well find buyers on the fringes of the mass market, where thousands of buyers may be searching for models with the colour and appeal of a Swatch or the old-fashioned solidity of a Morris, a badge which has long disappeared from British motoring.

When the now defunct British Motor Corporation positioned off its ageing Morris Oxford in 1959, it sent the assembly lines to India so that the sub-continent could build up its own indigenous motor industry, albeit with out-of-date models.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

HOUSE AND HOME

Harriet Harman on why Commons hours must change to get more mothers into the mother of parliaments Page 16

DON'T LOOK AT ME

Lord Tombs, of Rolls-Royce, tells Kate Muir about his pay cut, repeat cut, but says increases elsewhere are justified Page 16

PLUG-IN POETRY

A megabyte of Wordsworth is poetry to Philip Howard's car, as is all the other rhymeware of the finest English verse Page 18

INSIDE NEWS

Agassi goes out At Wimbledon yesterday, Andre Agassi went out to David Wheaton, who joined Stefan Edberg, Boris Becker and Michael Stich in today's semi-finals. The women's final tomorrow will be between Stefani Graf and Gabriela Sabatini.

In the third Test at Trentbridge, England began brightly with Glamorgan adding 108 for the first wicket, but then eight wickets fell for only 120 runs. At the close England were 269 for 8. Pages 39, 40

Chairman survives Jeremy Lee-Potter, last night survived as chairman of the British Medical Association in spite of strong criticism of his soft approach in opposing NHS reforms. Page 2

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New car sales stall, old cars revive

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

NEW car registrations in June fell by 31.18 per cent to confirm the motor industry's worst fears that sales are slowing dramatically.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said that sales were down to 98,204 taking the half-year total to 801,684, 24.8 per cent lower than the figure for the first six months of 1990.

Vauxhall last night joined the car sales war by offering up to £1,500 cash to buyers of its Nova and Astra range. Peter Batchelor, Vauxhall's director of sales and marketing, said the company was forced to act just 24 hours after Ford to remain competitive in a car market which had suffered its worst June for 21 years.

The Ford Escort was best-selling car for the second month running, although only 8,175 were registered, underlining the problems of Ford, which yesterday announced price cuts of up to £2,000 on its cars. Ford's Halewood



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Anti-drink crusaders give up the good fight

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE good fight is lost, and the pledge is broken. Drink and the devil have done for the British Women's Temperance Association, who have disbanded themselves from lack of interest and who yesterday surrendered their banners and trophies to the Edinburgh city museums.

Founded in 1876, the association, an almost entirely Scottish crusade in spite of its title, claimed more than 500 branches and 80,000 members in the early years of this century. By this year it had shrunk to five branches and fewer than 100 elderly teetotal ladies.

Margaret Duncan, aged 84, the association's last president, attended

with five of her fellow abstainers at Edinburgh City Chambers yesterday, where they drank tea and handed over their regalia, including a silver trophy presented annually to the branch which recruited the most new members. The most consistent winners were the women of Irvine, Ayrshire, in the heartland of whisky's greatest enologist, Robert Burns.

Miss Duncan, who has never touched a drop and claims excellent health as a result, said that the association had died because of its inability to attract any young members. "Times and attitudes have changed. Drinking is such a normal part of women's lives now, they think nothing of going into pubs."

Born on a tide of working-class Presbyterian fervour against the evils of the public house, the association once campaigned vigorously against the granting of new pub licences, and would gladly have seen Scotland subjected to prohibition in the 1920s American model. It was never so happy as when, during the first world war, Lloyd George introduced licensing hours for the first time, because he adjudged that workers in the munitions factories were spending more time at the bar than at the lathe.

Now the association has gone the way of the Good Templars, the Edinburgh Total Abstinence Society, and many other bodies dedicated to fighting the evils of alcohol. One such

body, the Independent Order of Rechabites, still exists in Edinburgh, and a fragment of the most famous of all, the Band of Hope, survives in Glasgow.

Miss Duncan and her ladies have abandoned the fight at a time when the enemy appears to be gaining the advantage. The last annual report of the government's chief medical officer for Scotland shows that alcohol-related deaths in Scotland are 8.86 per cent of the total, compared with 3.12 per cent in England. And it shows that the fastest growth of drink-related disease is among women.

Mother's little tipple, page 3
Beer bubble bursts, page 12

Major to go to China after deal on Hong Kong

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND RICHARD FORD

JOHN Major is to go to China to sign an agreement to build a new airport in Hong Kong, the government announced yesterday. The prime minister will make the first visit to Peking by Western leader since the Tiananmen Square mass killing in June 1989.

The agreement on the airport, announced in London and Peking, is a compromise that ends months of wrangling over the cost and the degree of Chinese control over decisions by the Hong Kong government before the transfer of sovereignty in 1997.

The agreement was clinched last weekend by Sir Percy Cradock, a foreign policy adviser to the prime minister and a former ambassador to China, who was sent by Mr Major on a secret visit with power to negotiate a compromise or scrap the project.

Douglas Hurd told MPs that the agreement reached should provide a new impetus to effective co-operation in the years before 1997. Under the memorandum of understanding initiated by Sir Percy, the foreign secretary, is to meet his Chinese counterpart twice a year and meetings between the colony's governor, and Lu Ping, the senior Chinese official dealing with Hong Kong in Peking, are to be regular.

Britain has made a number of concessions, especially over the financing of the project. The memorandum guarantees that the airport will be cost-effective and will not impose a financial burden on Hong Kong after 1997. The colony's reserves on the handover will be not less than HK\$25 billion (£2 billion).

China will also have a determining say in Hong Kong government borrowing and contracts that straddle 1997. An airport committee will be set up under the auspices of the Sino-British liaison group. This will not have power to make decisions.

China agrees to adopt a "positive attitude" to grants, contracts and guarantees by Hong Kong. It will be allowed a month to discuss details provided by the British side, and "any decision will give full weight to the Chinese government's views". The criteria will be the profitability and efficiency of each franchise.

chise. China promises to be positive and reasonable over Hong Kong borrowing that is to be repaid after 1997. But it has a right of veto over any debt exceeding HK\$5 billion.

British officials were sensitive to any suggestion that the deal involved a British climbdown, and insisted that the deal was the best that could be obtained for Hong Kong. They suggested that Chinese resistance had been overcome by Britain's warning that if Peking held out for tough conditions and too much political control, Britain was ready to abandon the project. The view in Peking was that China had called London's bluff, because in the end Britain was thought to be unwilling to face the financial and diplomatic expense of scrapping the scheme.

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Leading article, page 19

Chief's pay rises to £240,000

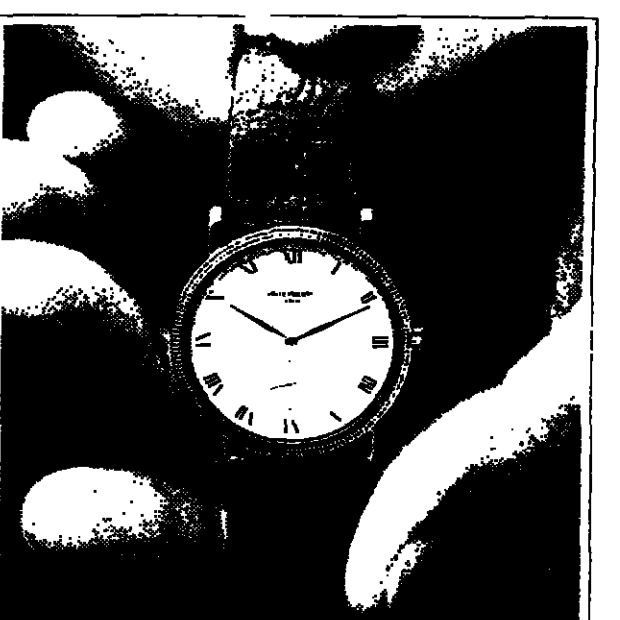
By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government's unease over top industrialists' pay increases deepened yesterday as it became clear that John Baker, chief executive of recently-privatised National Power, is being paid not the £135,000 for which he was criticised last week by the prime minister but £240,000.

When pressed yesterday by Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, to make a comment in the Commons, Mr Major said merely that he "disapproved" of such high pay rises.

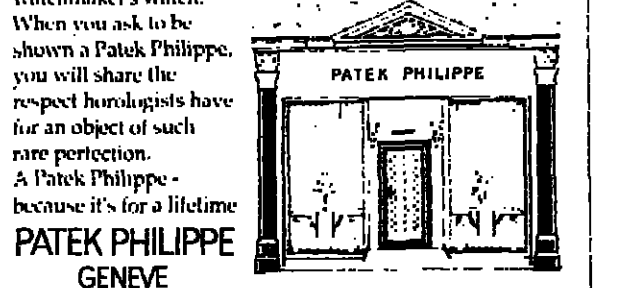
Frank Dobson, Labour's energy spokesman, last night attacked Mr Baker's latest increase, which amounts to 182 per cent since privatisation. Referring to the break-up of the power generating board into four companies, he said of Mr Baker: "He's getting 182 per cent more for doing about a third of his job."

Monopoly money, page 16
Top pay reports, page 25



Gents, 18 k gold Calatrava - £42,500

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Guarded welcome to EC pledge of continued press freedom



Nisbet-Smith: "Glad the commission has listened"

FEARS of new pan-European legislation governing the press were laid at rest by the European Commission yesterday after Jean Dondelinger, the culture and information commissioner, told publishers that no white papers or specific derogations were planned.

In what appeared a significant climbdown, coming just two days after Jacques Delors, the commission president, sparked the wrath of major European newspaper proprietors by saying there must be "one set of minimum rules for the game" worked out at Community level, M Dondelinger promised that there would be no active EC intervention in the press.

"The commission does not believe that solutions are to be sought through Community legisla-

tion," he told publishers, journalists and union officials yesterday at the end of the commission's three-day *assise* or consultative congress on the press in Luxembourg. But he added that "nothing is guaranteed for all time", and called on the press to "organise the clubhouse".

M Dondelinger's remarks, which came after British newspaper proprietors warned M Delors to keep out of their business, were widely interpreted by publishers as an attempt to allay their fears. Dugal Nisbet-Smith, director of the Newspaper Society, said: "Clearly the dialogue will continue, but I am glad that the commission has listened to the British point of view." Some, however, were still sceptical, as a report from the European parliament, claiming that

Scepticism remains among publishers despite a Brussels climbdown on press control. Will laissez-faire last? wonders Melinda Wittstock

the commission planned to tackle concentration of ownership and right of reply legislation, circulated around the *assise*. M Dondelinger did little to assure proprietors about limits on ownership, hinting, as did M Delors on Monday, that although press mergers are now a national matter under EC law, the commission may look at setting ownership thresholds. Bitter

disagreement, mainly between employers and unions, continues over a proposal to create a permanent European Press Forum, which had been inserted without consultation by the International Federation of Journalists into an already finalised *assise* working group report due to be sent to the commission. The recommendation was dropped from this report on Wednesday after British proprietors argued it would lead to EC intervention, but resurfaced yesterday as a recommendation from another working group.

Publishers believe that the forum is a cynical effort by unions to "get in through the back door" — persuading the commission to adopt plans rejected in their own countries. The unions, which

appear to have the ear of the commission, are lobbying for a European Works Council, which would facilitate cross-frontier collective bargaining as well as minimum wages and holiday pay for freelance journalists.

The commission said that it was prepared to pursue further dialogue with the press, but only if the press takes the initiative. It will not impose a permanent forum, M Dondelinger said. The European Newspaper Publishers Association will be meeting M Delors in a fortnight to discuss what he meant by his speech at the *assise*. It will also seek out his "broad strategic attitude" towards commission intervention on the press.

Leading article, page 19

Showtime Radio wins first licence

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

HOPES for a commercial alternative to Radio 3 were crushed yesterday when Britain's first independent national radio licence was awarded to First National Radio (FNR), which bid more than double its two rivals to bring listeners a mix of "easy listening" music from the stage, screen and concert hall.

The winner of the "non-pop" FM licence, announced by the Radio Authority, put in a cash bid of £1.753 million — five times the amount of the lowest offer from UK FM, the Lord Hanson/Radio Clyde easy listening venture. Classic FM, backed by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and André Previn, was the runner-up, with a bid of about £700,000.

Radio industry sources were surprised at the size of FNR's bid and questioned whether the station would attract enough advertising revenue to cover costs estimated at up to £10 million a year. Lord Chelmsford, the Radio Authority chairman, said he was satisfied with the company's financial projections.

The new station, chaired by Sir Peter Parker, the former British Rail chairman, is to be called Showtime Radio; it will be on air by early next summer and will compete directly with Radio 2 for listeners in the 25 to 55-plus age group. "Showtime will first and foremost be an entertainment station," Robert Kennedy, FNR director, said.

Ralph Bernard, chief executive of GWR Radio, which was the largest shareholder in Classic FM, said: "We are disappointed and surprised at the level of the winning bid."

Court sets drugs dates

The High Court yesterday set a deadline of April 1992 for thousands of patients who claim they became addicted to tranquillisers to join multiple litigation against drug firms, health authorities and doctors.

Laying ground rules for what is viewed as the biggest ever "personal injury" action in British legal history, Mr Justice Kennedy gave the estimated 10,000 expected claimants until April 15 to issue summonses. He also set September 20 this year as the date by which those wanting to take part in the action must apply for legal aid.

The action follows allegations of addiction to Benzodiazepine-based drugs that were introduced in the early 1960s. The drugs include well-known and widely prescribed names such as Librium, Valium, Mogadon, Serenid and Avivan.

Ceasefire ends

Loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland announced yesterday that they were ending the ceasefire introduced just over nine weeks ago when Peter Brooke, the Ulster secretary, began his all-party talks. The Combined Loyalist Military Command, representing organisations which include the Ulster Defence Association and the outlawed UVF, is expected to explain its reasons later.

Madeley cleared

Richard Madeley, presenter of ITV's *This Morning* programme, was yesterday found not guilty of stealing wines, spirits and washing powder from a supermarket. The jury at Manchester crown court failed to reach a verdict on a second charge of theft. The judge entered a not guilty verdict on that count after the prosecution said the Crown had decided a re-trial would not be in the public interest.

Times The Times overseas
Australia \$2.75; Belgium £1.40; Canada \$2.75; Denmark 12.00; France 11.00; Germany 12.00; Greece 12.00; Hong Kong \$2.75; Ireland 12.00; Italy 12.00; Japan 12.00; Korea 12.00; Luxembourg 12.00; Malaysia 12.00; Mexico 12.00; New Zealand 12.00; Norway 12.00; Portugal 12.00; Singapore 12.00; South Africa 12.00; Sweden 12.00; Switzerland 12.00; Taiwan 12.00; USA \$2.75.

Tax surcharges, page 6

Consultants follow junior doctors into hours battle

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITAL consultants who persuaded the government last month to delay by two years a reduction in junior doctors' hours to 72 a week launched a campaign yesterday to focus attention on their own hours of 40 to 50 a week.

Taking the view that junior doctors had stolen the show for too long with protests about a working week of up to 120 hours, senior doctors at the British Medical Association's meeting in Inverness paraded statistics collected from their new job plans saying that many were working up to 15 hours more than the 55 stated in their contracts. They warned that they would work to rule if senior government figures continued to castigate consultants over failing to fulfil NHS workloads.

Senior doctors were incensed by recent comments by Peter Griffiths, chief executive of Guy's Trust, that some consultants were spending too much time abroad, and remarks by Baroness Julia Cumberlege about consultants not pulling their weight. The doctors said that if juniors suffered physically and mentally from excessive hours, putting patients at risk, it would be even worse if the man wielding the knife was in his late fifties or sixties.

Dr John Chawner, chairman of the consultants committee, said: "Senior hospital staff are under constant attack. When Peter Griffiths was giving evidence to the health select committee he rounded on consultants in an attempt to deflect criticism from himself. Criticism by Peter Griffiths and Julia Cumberlege will destroy goodwill. We will have to go on to time-sensitive contracts starting at 9am and finishing at 5pm."

The meeting passed a motion proposing that maximum publicity be given to the excessive hours worked by most consultants.

The prime minister also came under attack from senior doctors for failing to meet them over their concerns about the impact of health

service reforms. They said that if John Major refused to heed their message they would have to take it to the electorate instead.

Although William Waldgrave, the health secretary, told the British Medical Association two months ago that Mr Major had agreed to meet them the doctors are still waiting. The meeting gave unanimous support to an emergency motion regretting the delay "in view of the rapid and continuing deterioration of the NHS".

Members were told that consultants were being muzzled and even dismissed for speaking out against the reforms and cutbacks, and that GP fund-holders were still making "back-door" deals to ensure that their patients received preferential treatment.

Leading article, page 19

Doctors back HIV test offer to mothers

By OUR SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ALL pregnant women should be offered an AIDS test as routine, the British Medical Association decided yesterday. The BMA's annual representative meeting, in Inverness, voted against its leader's advice in favour of a motion calling on GPs and antenatal clinics to ask all pregnant women if they wanted a blood test to see if they are HIV-positive.

Supporters of the motion said that there should be no coercion. The test would be given in conjunction with other tests routinely taken in pregnancy. Doctors hope that yesterday's decision, which has support from the government chief medical officer, Sir Donald Acheson, will help to remove the stigma of an HIV test which can jeopardise life insurance requests.

Doctors argue that pregnant women should have the chance to have an abortion if they find that they are HIV-positive. AZT, a drug used for

HIV patients to help to delay AIDS cannot be given during pregnancy, and pregnancy increases an HIV carrier's risk of developing full-blown AIDS. One in five children of HIV-positive parents goes on to develop the disease.

Proposing the motion, Mike Crowe, a Leicester GP, said: "Pregnant women have a right to know their HIV status." Motion opponents would say there were insufficient counsellors to advise patients, but Britain's 33,000 family doctors could do the job.

The motion was amended before it was put to members to make clear that a test would not be given without the woman's consent, but replacing the words "should be routinely screened" by "should be offered routine screening".

Jeremy Lee-Potter, the BMA chairman, urged the rejection of the motion, saying that knowledge of the benefits of screening was incomplete.

Mine-laying aid denied by Britons

By ROBIN YOUNG

TWO Britons identified in a television documentary as SAS men involved in training the Khmer Rouge to lay mines were in fact in Cambodia at the invitation of the Vietnamese Institute of International Affairs and of the Cambodian government, their counsel claimed in the High Court yesterday.

Christopher Geidt and Anthony de Normann are suing the journalist John Pilger and Central Television over the documentary, *Cambodia: The Buryal*, shown last October. Their counsel, Geoffrey Shaw, QC, said that neither had ever been a member of the SAS or had any contact with the Khmer Rouge.

Mr Shaw said that Mr Pilger and the television company now accepted that the two men had not trained the Khmer Rouge, but had not issued any statement correcting the false impression. The case continues today.

New law will make badgers' lives safer

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

MPs of all parties are likely to give final approval today to two private members' bills that will increase legal protection for badgers and birds of prey. One will make landowners legally accountable for their gamekeepers' actions, while the other will make it a criminal act to dig up or damage a badger sett.

Both bills have been watered down slightly by the landowning and field sports lobbies during passage through the Lords. In spite of some misgivings, the Commons is expected today to endorse their lordships' amendments.

The Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Bill, sponsored by Ron Davies, Labour MP for Caerphilly, and strongly supported by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), will make it an offence for a landowner to "knowingly kill or permit the illegal killing of wild birds and animals" on his property.

Andy Jones, the society's head of investigations, said yesterday: "We think the bill is a big improvement on existing legislation under which landowners cannot easily be prosecuted even if their gamekeepers say they were instructed to kill birds and animals."

The Badgers Bill, sponsored by Roy Hughes, Labour MP for Newport East, will close a loophole in the Badgers Act of 1973, which protects badgers but not their setts, the extensive burrow systems in which they live. Diggers and baiters have often escaped prosecution by claiming that they were looking for foxes, which are legal prey.

Falconry centre, page 7

Spending increase splits councils

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A SPLIT emerged last night between local council leaders in England over a bid for a 12.3 per cent increase in local authority spending next year.

Attempts to maintain a united front next Tuesday when municipal leaders meet Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, have collapsed after Conservative council leaders refused to endorse the bid. A document calling for total local authority spending of £43.9 billion from next April will be tabled at the meeting but the Tories will not support it.

The limit set on council spending this year is £39 billion and Mr Heseltine has ruled out a large increase. Labour council leaders have said they will press on.

The Association of District Councils said it would tell Mr Heseltine it regarded the bid as inflationary. The document was drawn up in consultation with environment department officials, but both sides point out that the civil servants did no more than check the arithmetic.

If conceded in full by the government, the local authorities bid for higher spending limits next year could push average poll tax bills, which stand at £252 this year, over £300 from April 1992. The cabinet is keen to keep council spending in check in the run-up to the introduction of the council tax in 1993.

Jericho's story falls to trumpeting of earthquake theory

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE collapse of the walls of Jericho and the simultaneous crossing of the River Jordan by the Israelites were caused by earthquakes, a scientist is claiming.

An earthquake might also have destroyed the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah with the huge smoke clouds said to have been witnessed by Abraham having been instead dust clouds caused by the quake.

Studies by Amos Nur, chairman of the geophysics department at Stanford university, California, in-

dicating that the regions of Galilee, Judea and Samaria have been extremely prone to violent quakes for at least 10,000 years. The earthquakes, triggered by tectonic plate movements in the earth between the Arabian Plate in the east and the African Sinai Plate in the west, have been accompanied in some cases by huge mudslides capable of damming the River Jordan and allowing people to cross.

Professor Nur is convinced that when the Book of Joshua, chapter 3:15 to 16, records the collapse of Jericho and the simultaneous escape of the Jews across the river in about

1,000 BC it is chronicling just such an event.

The book links the town of Adam with the crossing, the old name for modern-day Damia. Seven earthquake-mediated mudslides between AD 1160 and 1927 have been recorded near Damia, severe enough to dam or partially dam the River Jordan for up to two days, the scientist says.

The findings are based on archaeological evidence, biblical writings and eye-witness accounts dating back to 117 BC, which Professor Nur has matched with contemporary seismological data.

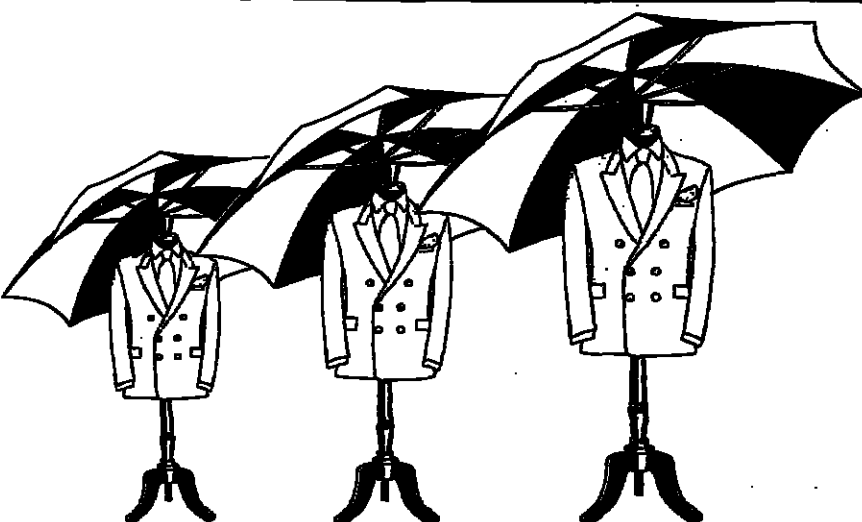
At least 30 documented earthquakes appear to have hit the so-called Jericho fault, part of the Dead Sea rift which runs from the Zagros mountains in Iran to the Dead Sea, over the past 2,000 years Professor Nur has found. Josephus, the Jewish historian, reports an earthquake in Judea which destroyed the town of Qumran in 31 BC, killing 10,000 men. Qumran is where the Dead Sea scrolls were found.

Biblical references professor Nur has drawn on include Zechariah, chapter 14:4-5. Here the prophet foretells an earthquake splitting the Mount of Olives like the one which

struck about 760 BC during the reign of Uzziah, King of Judah, claims Professor Nur.

He believes that Abraham's witnessing of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah 4,000 years ago might be the first documentation of an earthquake in the Holy Land. In Genesis, 19:27-28, Abraham is said to have seen smoke over the land as the towns were destroyed. Professor Nur, whose findings are reported in *New Scientist*, argues that earthquakes in dry areas, such as California, often produce great clouds of dust which look like smoke.

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Showing Radio wins first licence
By Melinda Wright
MUSIC CORRESPONDENT
A licence to broadcast radio on the internet has been awarded to the first of a new generation of webcasters. The licence, which allows the broadcaster to transmit music and other content over the internet, was awarded to the first of a new generation of webcasters. The licence, which allows the broadcaster to transmit music and other content over the internet, was awarded to the first of a new generation of webcasters.

Barlow Clowes pair 'spent clients' cash on a luxury yacht'

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE only gilt-edged assets paid for with the funds of Barlow Clowes investors were the gold taps on board a \$2.5 million yacht bought by two of the group's executives, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

In August 1987, Peter Clowes and Guy von Cramer bought Christina Onassis's yacht the Boukhephalos. The prosecution alleged that apart from 10 per cent of the price, all the money used to buy it came from clients' funds in Barlow Clowes International, the Gibraltar-based arm of the collapsed financial services group.

The investors are said to have lent their money in the belief that Barlow Clowes would invest it in British government gilt-edged securities, which are considered to be safe. Instead, the court has been told that the four accused stole the money and used it to buy luxuries including a French chateau, a fleet of cars,

antiques and a jewellery business. To cover their tracks, they are alleged to have used offshore, off-the-shelf companies in multi-million pound money-laundering operations.

Alan Suckling, QC, prosecuting for the serious fraud office, showed the jury a series of photographs of the yacht bought from Christina Onassis yesterday, and said that the only gilt-edged items bought with investors' money "were the taps".

Peter Clowes, aged 50, and three executives of companies in the Barlow Clowes group face various charges of conspiracy, theft of clients' money, and making false statements to induce clients to enter investment schemes.

The three other defendants are Peter Naylor, 35, of Sand, Surrey; Guy von Cramer, 29 of Micklethwaite, West Yorkshire; and Christopher Newman, 37, of Polstead, Suffolk.

The four deny all the charges. Mr Suckling, on the third day of his opening address, said that Mr von Cramer used some of the money to pay off large overdrafts and to buy three cars: a Porsche, a Mercedes Benz, and a Ferrari Testarossa.

In February 1986, Mr Clowes and Mr von Cramer used £2.75 million of clients' money to play "corporate raiders" when they tried to take over the Belgrave Holdings property company. Mr Suckling said that the other two defendants were also in on the scheme.

They used an offshore company to buy more than 10 per cent of Belgrave, but failed to obtain seats on the board and sold the three-and-a-half million Belgrave shares for £6.72 million, making a clear profit of more than £2.8 million.

What happened to the £6.72 million that was realised by the sale of those shares? It didn't go back to the clients' accounts. It was used in a variety of ways to the benefit of the defendants, Mr Suckling said.

Soon after the failed Belgrave venture, Mr Clowes and Mr Cramer decided to bid for Buckleys Brewery, in Llanelli, Dyfed, and allegedly lined up more than £16 million of clients' funds. Mr Suckling said that both Mr Clowes and Mr Cramer clearly treated the brewery shares bought with clients' money as their own, and treated the company as a personal asset once the bid was completed in October 1987.

Mr Suckling said that because they had successfully bought control of the company for less than the value of 100 per cent of the shares, the defendants had marshalled just over £6.4 million of clients' money more than they actually needed. "What happened to it?" asked Mr Suckling. "Well, it didn't go back to the clients."

He told the court that, on October 19, £6.25 million went into Mr von Cramer's shareholding account. On the same day more than £76,000 of that money went to one of Mr von Cramer's companies. Also that day, nearly £4 million was transferred to an offshore company that Mr Cramer had set up, with most of it eventually being used for his own purposes.

Just over £2.25 million from Mr Cramer's shareholding account is alleged to have gone to a firm of stockbrokers to buy more shares in another company in the name of Clowes Holdings. Mr Suckling said that some of the money was also used to buy shares in BP for Mr Clowes and his wife.

The trial continues today.

Judge halts trial after CPS error

A LEGAL blunder yesterday halted a trial involving a man accused of murdering his former lover's husband. The judge ordered a retrial after hearing that vital evidence in a statement had been overlooked by the prosecution.

The statement had not been handed to the prosecution or the defence before the trial because "nobody had checked to see if it was in the bundle", Norwich Crown Court was told. Mr Justice Ognall ordered a "meticulous investigation" by a senior representative of the Crown Prosecution Service.

Later, a CPS spokesman said: "It appears the CPS have been at fault in that a statement has gone astray. I cannot say why the statement was not given. That is what the investigation will establish." He said the enquiry into the error would be supervised by Michael Harvey, Chief Crown Prosecutor for Norfolk and Suffolk. A written report would be presented to the trial judge on Monday.

Three men, who deny murdering Andrew Pilch, a cerebral palsy sufferer - his wife's former lover Kevin Hearle, aged 23, his brother Nigel Hearle, aged 25, and Andrew Watts, aged 21 - wept in the dock.

The prosecution had earlier alleged that Hearle, a handyman who lived with the Pilchs and had an affair with Sarah

Pilch, aged 27, murdered her husband after hearing the couple making love.

The development came on the fifth day of the trial after a remand prisoner at Norwich jail told the jury that the Hearle brothers and Watts had spoken to him about their case. His evidence concentrated on a single statement he had made to police, when he suddenly mentioned making a second statement.

The proceedings were stopped for legal arguments before the judge called back the jury and halted the trial. The defence barristers had said they would apply for a retrial. Mr Justice Ognall said: "The overriding consideration must always be from first to last, the conduct of a fair trial. This trial, in the circumstances, cannot be fair."

Mr Justice Ognall: "This trial cannot be fair"

The trial continues today.

April showers its offspring with greatest gift of genius

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

WHAT do Leonardo da Vinci, William Shakespeare, Hans Christian Andersen and Charlie Chaplin have in common? The answer may be that, since all had April birthdays, they are examples of how geniuses are born rather than made.

March is also a good month for the arrival of extraordinary talents, as exemplified by Michelangelo, Vincent van Gogh and Albert Einstein. However, although Copernicus, Galileo and Mozart were born in January, the first month of the year is not the best of starts for the great men of history.

All this may sound like the stuff of horoscopes. In fact, it is research aimed at casting light on the thin line that may divide genius from madness and an attempt to explain the origins of schizophrenia.

In a study presented to the annual conference of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, in Brighton, Digby Quested, a research fellow in psychiatry, examined the birthdays of 100 men of widely acknowledged creative genius. He was exploring the possibility that if genius and madness are genetically linked, they may share some characteristics of birth and infancy.

Previous studies have shown that schizophrenics are more likely to be born in or around March, perhaps because of viral infections during winter pregnancies.

Dr Quested, of the Priory hospital, at Roehampton, southwest London, found that of his 100 geniuses, more were born in March and April - 13 each - than in any other month. Only four arrived in August, and just three, the lowest figure, in September.

"There is a considerable body of evidence to suggest that genius and eminence are found to a greater extent in those born in the early months of the year," Dr Quested says. "As the effect is seen in both 'genius' and 'madness', it is possible that a single system is responsible for the varying outcomes. The most likely explanation is that those born in the early spring experience the summer months during their first few months of life, when the brain undergoes a major increase in its mass, whereas those born in autumn experience the darker days of winter."

Research has shown that animals exposed to more environmental light have greater increases in brain mass. The same may be so in humans, Dr Quested believes.

The unborn child may receive genetic messages from its mother preparing it for the season of its birth. The extent to which the focus takes up that information may affect mental development, he says.

Another theory is that animals are instinctively driven to mate in specific seasons in order that offspring are born at times of the year offering the best prospects of survival. A similar primitive instinct may exist and be more pronounced in some humans than others, resulting in the spring births of their children.

Mother's little tipple will do baby no harm

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

MODERATE drinking during pregnancy has no damaging effects on babies' mental and physical development up to the age of 18 months, a study has found.

One drink a day does no measurable harm, says the survey after following up 592 babies born in Dundee between May 1, 1985 and April 30, 1986. Furthermore, mothers who drank more before becoming pregnant had more intelligent children than did total abstainers.

Charles Florey, of the department of epidemiology and public health at Dundee university, the leader of the study, cautions against jumping to conclusions. "This doesn't mean that drinking before pregnancy is good for a baby. All it means is that women in social classes one and two, who tend to have brighter babies, also tend to drink more when they aren't pregnant."

The study found no adverse effects in the development of any of the children born to mothers whose drinking ranged from abstinence to four drinks a day.

Writing in this week's issue of the *British Medical Journal*, the team says pregnant women probably need not abstain from alcohol altogether. However, to allow for a margin of safety it is recommended they have no more than one drink a day.



Grave hunt: radar-based surveying equipment, which shows up material beneath the surface, helped police yesterday as they searched Epping forest near Ongar, Essex, for the body of a child killed by paedophiles. The machine can also tell if the ground has been disturbed up to six feet deep.

Major to set out his agenda on green issue

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major will next week proclaim his concern for the environment, nationally and internationally, in his first significant speech on a subject that his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, had made her own.

Setting out the government's environmental agenda for the Nineties, the prime minister will address a wide range of issues, from the dangers of global climate change to the consumer's power to make industry more environmentally responsible.

The speech, to be given to a conference accompanying a *Sunday Times* environment exhibition, is intended as a definitive statement of Mr Major's position on the environment, comparable to the speech on education he made on Wednesday.

Mr Major will use the speech to inject an environmental element into the agenda for the London summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations the following week, at which some observers expect a British environmental initiative to be made.

● The conference Mr Major will address, "Global Problems, Global Solutions", will bring together some of the world's leading environmental experts and takes place on Monday and Tuesday at Olympia, London, in conjunction with a large-scale exhibition on environment, wildlife and conservation organised by *The Sunday Times*. The exhibition opens tomorrow and lasts until Thursday, July 11.

SATURDAY REVIEW



"The heat, the fumes, and the thunderous noise combine to make the work of the firefighters among the toughest assignments on earth. The men are dwarfed by the flames. Temperatures are frequently around 150C and can reach 375C"

Christopher Walker amid Kuwait's burning oilfields

FIRST STEPS



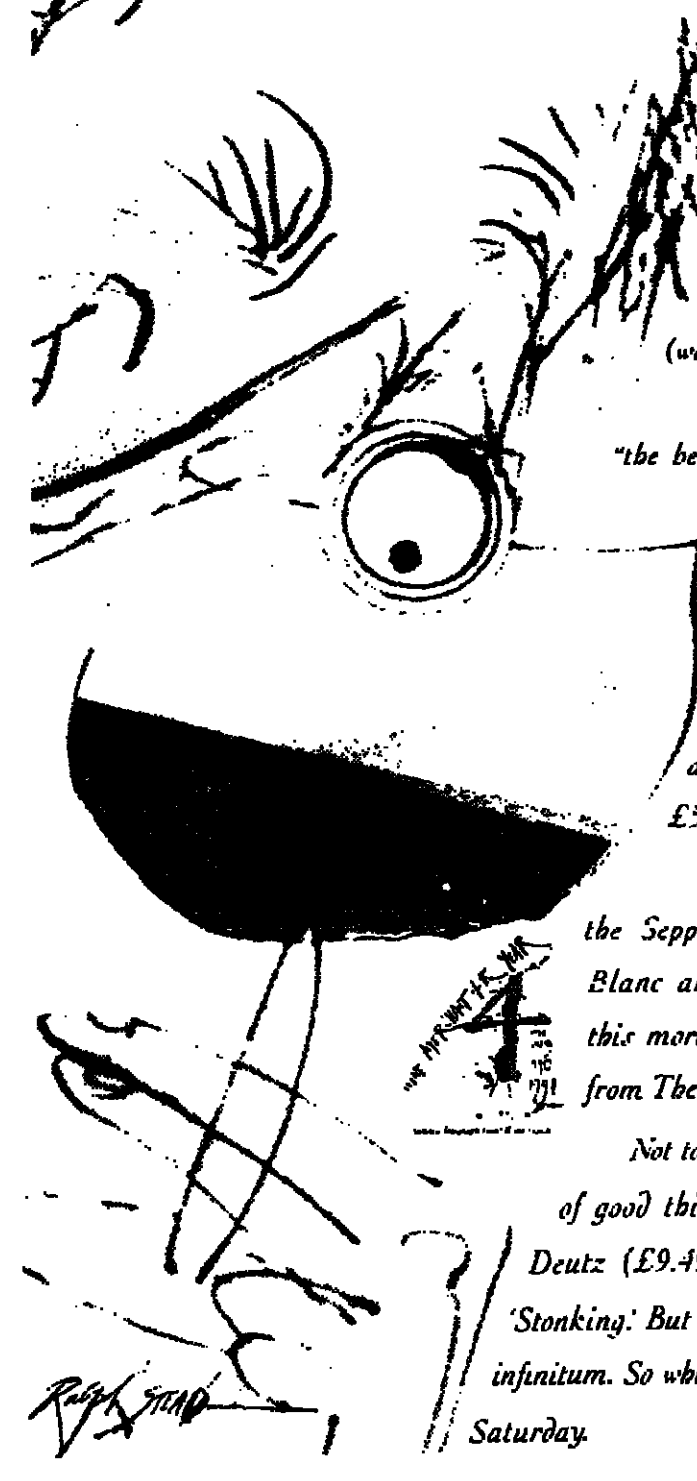
"I must have had a very theatrical mind even at that time, because when I was about seven or eight I remember making up a costume, which was a pair of shorts and braces, no shirt, sandals and no socks. I must have got this urchin idea from some film. Obviously, I was hoping for the sympathy of the audience"

Kenneth MacMillan, quiet man of ballet, on the childhood that shaped a sparkling career

The Times tomorrow: ask your newsagent to reserve a copy today

Four fine fizz finds for free.

(The Oddbins fizztival continues.)



Week five of Oddbins' free tastings is upon us already. And in honour of Saturday's grape event we have some superlative sparkling wines to sample.

Like the Angas Brut Rosé (we're sure you will).

The *Sunday Times* thought it was "the best value non-Champagne pink fizz from any country."

Or try the Blanquette de Limoux Brut A.C.

The *Times* did and thought it "would make an invigorating aperitif." (Even more refreshing at £5.99 we think.)

In at No. 5 (and out at £6.49), the Seppelt Premier Cuvée NV "Chenin Blanc and Semillon provide the base of this moreish blend" said Jane MacQuitty from *The Times*.

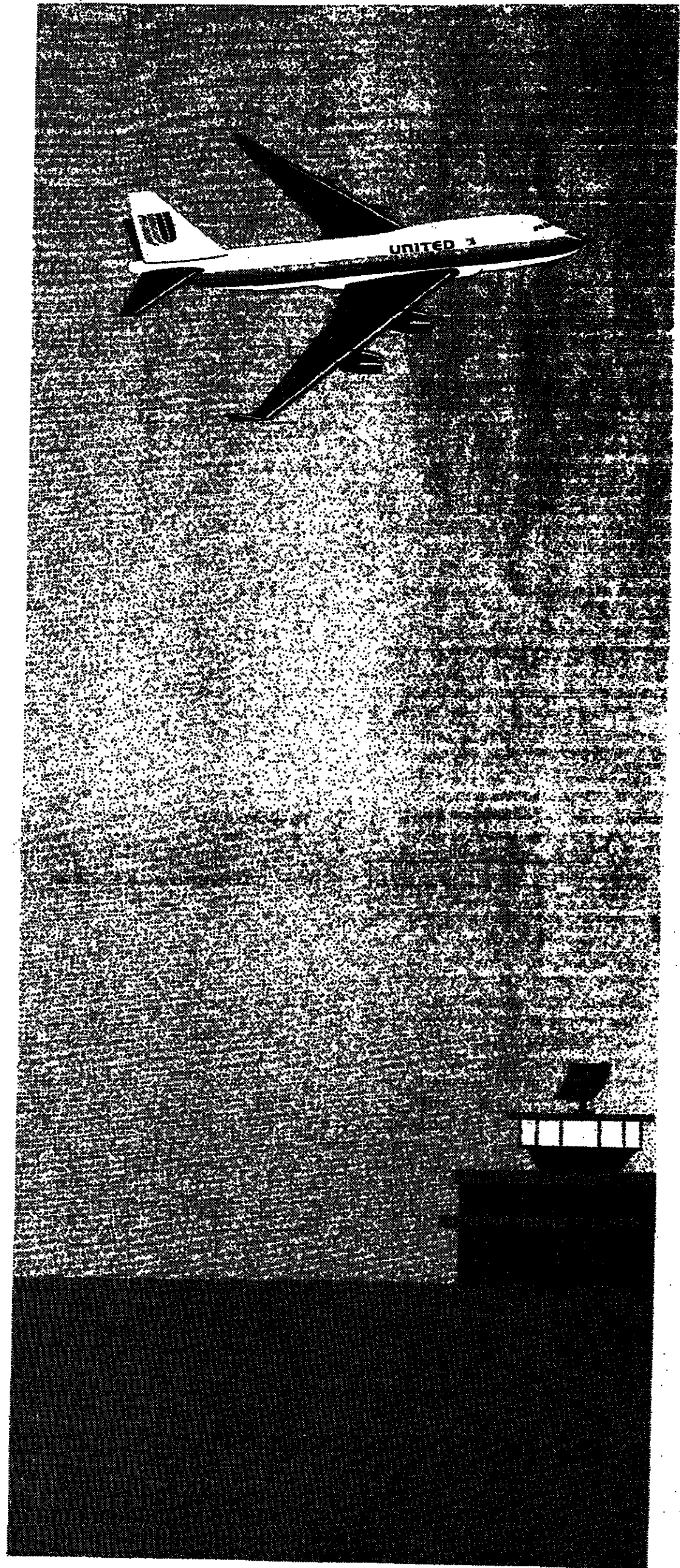
Not to be outdone, Decanter had plenty of good things to say about the Maison Deutz (£9.49). The best we've managed is 'Stonking.' But the fizztivities don't go on odd infinitum. So whizz down to Oddbins this coming Saturday.

Sip sip hooray!

2-5 PM (SUBJECT TO LOCAL VARIATION)

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مiles for init
on mini
wage

Parties battle for initiative on minimum wage plan

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONAL minimum wage would have a devastating ripple effect across the economy, pushing up prices, stifling output and costing jobs, ministers claimed yesterday as they widened their assault on Labour's plans.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, pointed to two independent surveys to justify his predictions of up to two million lost jobs, a 0.5 per cent drop in gross domestic product and inflation 2 per cent higher if Labour was to implement its proposals.

However Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, accused Mr Howard of creating a smokescreen to divert attention from soaring unemployment. He also pointed to a separate survey that exposed the Tories' "fraudulent claims".

At a press conference in London, Mr Howard said that the minimum wage was not just a threat to jobs. "As union members scrambled to maintain their differentials above the minimum wage, average earnings would soar — and since the minimum would itself be tied to the level of average earnings, a vicious and never-ending spiral of over-inflating wages would be set in motion."

He cited a report from the City analyst UBS Phillips and Drew and a survey of pay trends by the Reward Group as evidence for his allegations.

Labour proposes to set its statutory minimum wage at

half average male earnings. Over time, it intends to increase that to two-thirds of the average. According to Phillips and Drew, the first stage would add 400,000 to the dole queues and up to 1 per cent to inflation. The second would push job losses to 1.25 million and add up to 2.5 per cent to inflation.

The Reward survey said that a minimum wage would push up unemployment in the regions. The West Midlands would be "desperately hard hit" as costs were increased to adjust to a wages floor of £3.27 an hour.

Mr Blair, however, pointed to a report from Income Data Services (IDS) as he sought to rebut the government's claims. The report, based on a survey of 120 pay settlements over the past 30 months, found that employment department estimates about the impact of minimum wage legislation were entirely unrealistic and the forecast of up to two million lost jobs was "not borne out by the facts".

He added that the latest Tory document on the minimum wage was a "tissue of distortions and fabrications". Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said the Conservative attack was a desperate bid to downplay the electoral appeal of a popular policy. Accusing the government of hysteria, he said that Mr Howard was a man on the run.

How one union sold Labour the policy

IN the swirling mass of political and economic argument over Labour's statutory national minimum wage policy, one Conservative charge at least is true: that the policy is driven by Labour's trade unions, and especially by the National Union of Public Employees.

Chris Patten, Conservative chairman, was withering yesterday: "The Nupe school of economics has not been entirely good for the economy," he said, launching the government's most concerted attack so far on the national minimum wage (NMW).

Labour has an NMW policy almost entirely because of Nupe, and Rodney Bickerstaffe, its general secretary since 1982. Mr Bickerstaffe, who will be TUC president in September, has achieved what seemed the impossible task of swinging Labour's committees and conferences behind an NMW.

Nupe got the policy through the Labour party conference in 1983 and two years later achieved the two-thirds majority vote needed for it to become party policy.

When the young turks of the party, John Smith, Margaret Beckett, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, moved into Labour's prime economic jobs, the policy was viewed with concern by some Labour leaders. Two distinct views began to emerge: support for the idea as a medium-term objective and support for an NMW as a complex issue, on which a future Labour government could not legislate early.

Mr Bickerstaffe moved fast. Strong lobbying scotched the medium-term idea, but the NMW was linked to two-thirds of male earnings, not to the median, and Nupe or-

Philip Bassett explains the tough years of lobbying that led Kinnock's party to back an improbable cause

ganised a team of experts to prepare a draft NMW bill ready for Neil Kinnock's first day as prime minister.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, has been sharp in sensing Labour's internal unease over the policy. He has seized every opportunity to exploit the issue so that Tony Blair, Labour's adroit employment spokesman, was initially caught off balance.

Right-wing union leaders like Eric Hammond of the EETPU electricians and Gavin Laird of the AEU engineering workers — although, significantly, not the AEU itself — believe their members will not accept the compression of pay differentials which they see as inevitable in an NMW. Some left-wing unions back the idea but are worried that it might lead to a statutory incomes policy.

Privately, some Labour leaders would like to drop the two-thirds earnings link from the NMW policy: others would like to drop the policy altogether. But the ferocity of Mr Howard's attacks means that not even a Labour leadership noted for its revisionism can politically now do either. The argument will continue all summer and riotous round the autumn party conferences; so far we have seen only the opening shots of what will be a bloody battle.

Howard says Tecs are failing jobless

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

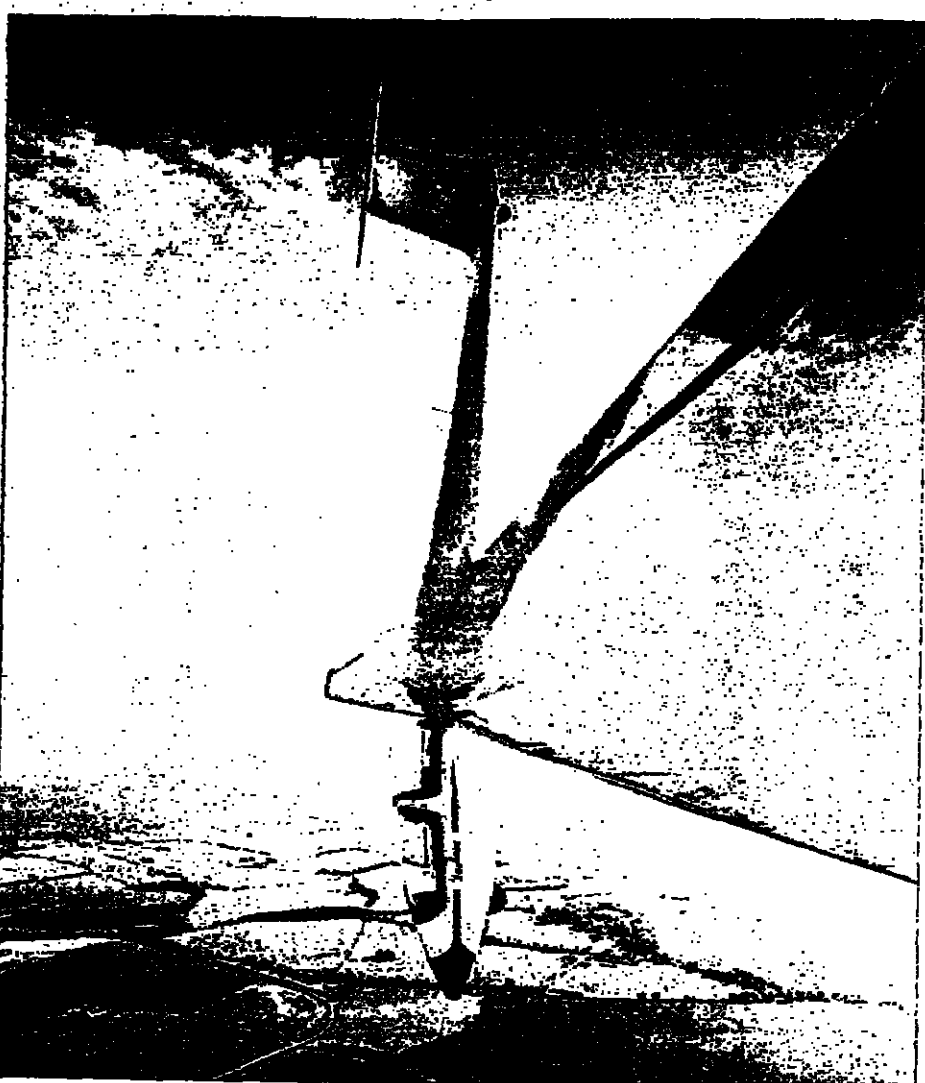
THE government acknowledged publicly for the first time yesterday that its training and enterprise councils (Tecs) — the business-led bodies now running training in Britain — have insufficiently dealt with unemployment.

The admission by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, in a speech in Birmingham on the future of the Tecs underlines the growing political impact of rising unemployment.

Mr Howard's speech followed his announcement earlier this week that the government will take account of rises in unemployment, as well as actual unemployment levels, in setting funding for its new temporary work scheme for the long-term unemployed. The government's acknow-

ledgment of unemployment change, first identified as a factor by *The Times* this year, may well mean more funding going to schemes in the South, where Conservative parliamentary seats are dominant.

Speaking at a conference of Tec leaders, Mr Howard said that the unemployed and the disadvantaged must not be forgotten. "If we are honest with ourselves, their needs and potential are not perhaps yet fully appreciated by the Tecs. We do not yet have enough day-to-day contact or linkage with those who deal with them." In particular, he wanted Tecs to develop close links with the Employment Service, the government agency which pays unemployment benefit and offers vacancies to those seeking work.



Airy grace: above Hampshire, a contestant preparing yesterday for next weekend's national gliding championships. Julian Herbert the photographer, in the rear seat, had strapped his camera to the wing and triggered it by remote control

NRA flooded with calls over dangers of tin mine water

By ALICE THOMSON

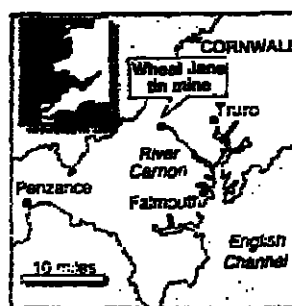
THE National Rivers Authority has been inundated with enquiries after its warning on Wednesday that private water sources may become contaminated by dangerous levels of trace minerals from an abandoned Cornish tin mine.

Water containing the minerals, including cadmium, arsenic, zinc and lead, has started to flood into the Wheal Jane tin mine near Truro. The authority fears that the minerals could seep into private wells, springs and boreholes in the area but public water supplies are not in danger.

The authority set up a free telephone hotline yesterday and received more than forty calls from farmers and householders who use private sources of water. It promised to look into each case and environmental health officers are checking water sources.

Pumping operations at Wheal Jane, which was one of Britain's last two tin mines, stopped when the mine had to close in April after the price of tin fell on the international market and the government withdrew its subsidy. The owner, Carnon Consolidated, has since removed the pumps.

The capacity of the mine is estimated at more than 25 million cubic metres. The



private water supplies in the area. Changes in the wildlife in the river will also be carefully monitored after discharges from the mine begin.

Carnon Consolidated disputes the danger posed by the flooding. Kevin Ross, operations director, said: "We don't envisage any problems but we are co-operating with the NRA."

The company has applied to Carrick district council for planning permission to turn the valley into a tourist attraction, with leisure facilities that would include a golf course.

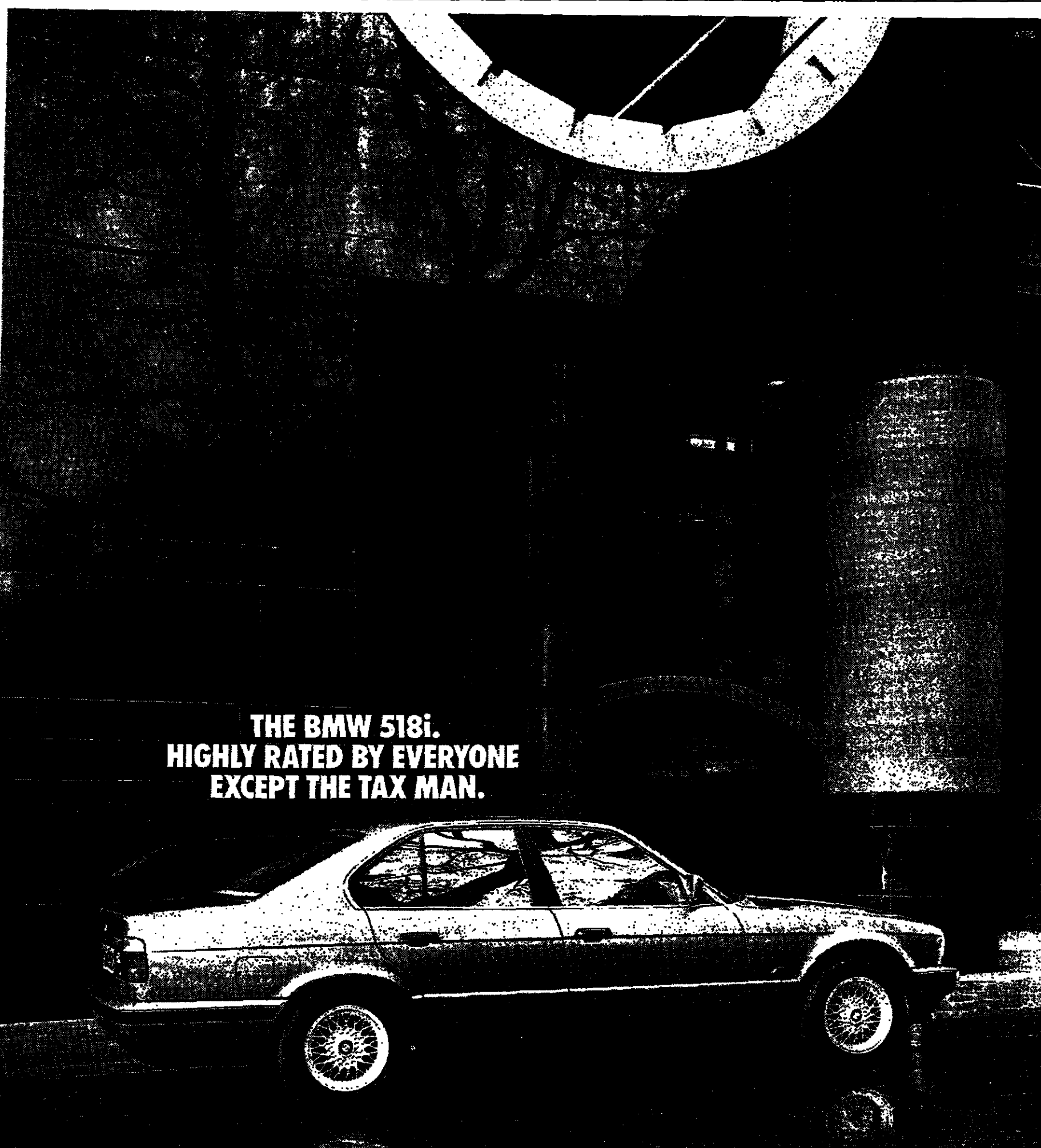
Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrat MP for Truro, said yesterday: "The government should take responsibility for this because it was their withdrawal of support that caused its closure, and the government did not consider the effects of the flooding which closure brought about."

Meteor activity flares

UNUSUALLY high meteor activity was reported over Britain early yesterday. At 2am a display was seen by a man at Watchet, Somerset, who reported what he thought were distress flares over the Bristol Channel.

Swansea coastguards checked on the sighting and reported several meteors. One was seen falling in the Bristol Channel, narrowly missing a tug.

The display was visible in the Taunton area with parolling policemen making a number of reports. Coastguards from Falmouth to Liverpool reported unusual activity in the clear night sky.



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"Fast Lane" praised its "excellent dynamics".

"What Car?" admired its "fine ride and handling".

And in "What Company Car's?" opinion (mixing high praise and hyperbole in roughly equal proportions) the BMW 518i boasts nothing short of "charisma by the bucket load".

Fortunately for BMW drivers, HM Inspector of Taxes has yet to put a tax on charisma.

At the moment, he's still settling for price and engine size.

At £17,165 (or £18,850 for the SE model) the 518i will carry the company car driver safely beneath both the £19,250 and the 2 litre tax thresholds.

But while the Chancellor of the Exchequer is prepared to allow the odd economy, BMW engineers don't share his attitude.

So the BMW 518i has the same basic chassis as the £46,000 BMW M5, designed to withstand the worst that the infamous Nurburgring Racing Circuit can throw at it.

It has a fuel injected 1.8 litre, 113 bhp engine, with a cylinder design derived directly from BMW's V-12. Little wonder that "Company Car" described it as "smoothly responsive".

And naturally, it has a 3-way catalytic converter fitted as standard.

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and a low tax bracket. Which is why the BMW 518i offers a few more ways to make life less taxing.

Like a range of BMW finance packages including Lease Purchase and Contract Hire, which can be tailored to your specifications.

Then there's a year's membership of BMW's Emergency Service. It offers the benefits you'd expect (car hire and vehicle recovery), as well as some you might not. Such as comprehensive medical insurance and accommodation throughout the UK and Europe.

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Educationists get to grips with school tests switch

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

EDUCATION advisers were yesterday coming to terms with the prime minister's determination to return to written examinations for children aged between seven and sixteen, scrapping the standard assessment tasks that have cost £50 million.

Civil servants in the education department and the School Examinations and Assessment Council complained that they had not been told of the radical change, while cabinet insiders let it be known they were determined to have it done their way.

Earlier this week, Mr Major said testing at ages seven, eleven and fourteen should rely on "whole-class tests" and those for the youngest children should concentrate on mathematics, English and science. Tests designed to please teachers so that they fitted in with normal teaching methods have pleased nobody. In effect, they have loaded unnecessary work on teachers, disrupted teaching, upset some children and parents and failed to deliver a clear report to parents showing whether children had met their potential and how they compared with other children.

Educationists involved in

setting the tests were not available for comment but the examinations council said it would be considering the changes today. Hilary Steadman, who sat on the committee that laid down the idea of thorough testing for all children, said she believed there was a movement towards some pencil and paper tests.

Miss Steadman, a senior research officer with the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, said: "Many of our tests could be sat by whole classes. Paper and pencil tests sound horrific but there is a place for them if they are used with common sense and where you do not have a lot of time."

Mr Major and Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, favour simplified tests that will tell parents whether their children are meeting their potential and how they match classmates. The example below from the New Macmillan Reading Analysis shows the kind of reading tests that can be used for seven-year-olds to tell parents how they compare with the average of their age group. The tests would have to be modified to show whether children were reaching their potential.

TESTING THE SEVEN-YEAR-OLDS

Example of type favoured by the PM

READ THIS PASSAGE:

Many years ago vast flocks of ostriches roamed through Africa. They were worshipped by the people of Egypt and only kings were allowed to wear the magnificent feathers. Later, hunters used to kill many of the birds to sell the feathers. Rich people loved wearing them. At one time this fashion for ostrich feathers nearly made ostriches extinct. Today they are farmed, like cattle or sheep. They like to lay about twelve eggs before they will sit on them to make them hatch. Ostrich farmers cheat the birds by hiding some of the eggs. This deception makes the birds lay more.

Words in bold to guide children

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. How can you tell that people in Egypt admired ostriches?
2. Why did people start to kill them?
3. What almost happened to the ostriches when people started hunting them?
4. What do ostriches have to do before they will sit on their eggs?
5. How do farmers make them lay more eggs?
6. Can you find a word in the passage that means the same as wandered?

Source: New Macmillan Reading Analysis

Words in bold to guide children

A R T I S T S



Chorus line: five corgis waiting with their hopeful owners yesterday to audition for the part of one of the Queen's pets in an adaptation of Roald Dahl's children's adventure, *The BFG* - *Big Friendly Giant*, which opens on July 16 at the Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon, south London

Dr Who meets his eternal foes again

By JOE JOSEPH

YOU must have seen the television programme, you may have seen the underpants, now you can view the exhibition.

The men, monsters and merchandise that made *Dr Who* an improbable and long-lasting success are celebrated in an exhibition opening today at the Museum of the Moving Image, in central London.

The exhibition is called "Behind the Sofa" in tribute to innocent days of the early Sixties, when children were too scared to watch the first episodes except from behind a couch. Now that children rate even *The Silence of the Lambs* as tame, a mere Cyberman would probably provoke a chorus of juvenile derision.

Davros is in the exhibition, as is K9 the robot dog. The Ice Warrior is also on show, and so is the Giant Robot, looking like a Michelin man made out of baking tins. The prize exhibit for most people will, however, be the Daleks. The public's favourite enemy, a Dalek looks sadly unthreatening in real life, its left arm res-

embling an avant-garde egg whisk, and its right looking like a sink plunger. One Dalek is for visitors' use. You can stand in it and wiggle the arms, pretending to exterminate someone. If more domestic-minded, you could pretend to unblock a sink.

Many of the early monsters have vanished. Some crumbled. Others were thrown out because nobody at the BBC imagined that a series about an oddly dressed man and his scantily clad assistant travelling the universe in a police box would amuse the public for very long. In fact, *Dr Who* became the world's longest-running science fiction series, broadcast in 60 countries. It began in November 1963, on the day after Kennedy was shot, and ran until 1989.

A corner of the exhibition is devoted to *Dr Who* memorabilia, to revive happy memories for those who once owned a *Dr Who* jigsaw or a Tardis bubble bath, or wore blue *Dr Who* underpants bearing a picture of Tom Baker and a Dalek in combat.

Poll tax surcharges twice as high as ministers' forecasts

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE environment department yesterday published figures showing that poll tax surcharges, imposed to cover widespread non-payment of the tax, are running at up to twice the level originally estimated.

A table placed in the House of Commons library shows that 20 councils have imposed supplements of more than £50 a head, including Labour-controlled Lambeth, the highest, at £158 a head.

The latest list shows a different picture to that issued by the department last week, which covered the amounts levied by councils to cover only the amount of poll tax income lost by non-payment. The new table shows the surcharge actually levied, which includes allowances to cover interest paid on borrowings to make up the shortfall. Hounslow, west London, which has levied a total surcharge of £46, was wrongly featured at number three in a table published in *The Times* on Monday. Hounslow's allowance for revenue lost by non-payment was in fact only £10.

Council	£	Council	£
Lambeth (Lab)	140	Tower Hamlets (SLD)	83
Islington (Lab)	137	Haringey (Lab)	82
Southwark (Lab)	84	Sandwell (Lab)	81
Hackney (Lab)	80	Reading (Lab)	79
Greenwich (Lab)	75	Camden (Lab)	58
Hammersmith (Lab)	73	Kirklees (Lab)	52
Brent (Con)	70	Plymouth (Lab)	52
Liverpool (Lab)	70	Bristol (Lab)	51
Oxford (Lab)	68	Lewisham (Lab)	51
Newham (Lab)	65	Southampton (Lab)	51

Source: Department of the Environment. (* Actual figure £158)

on Monday. Hounslow's allowance for revenue lost by non-payment was in fact only £10.

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said: "These figures reflect the impossibility of collecting the poll tax in inner urban areas with large shifting populations. Councils have made huge efforts to collect this uncollectable tax. "If the government was serious about tackling the problem it would act now to abolish the rule that the poorest have to pay 20 per cent of the poll tax, and reinstate the rating system from April 1 next year."

The surcharge levied by Lambeth has prompted residents of Streatham, in the south of the borough, to call for the area to be transferred to neighbouring Tory-controlled Wandsworth.

After setting the lowest poll tax in England last year, Wandsworth went one better this year by setting a zero tax after the government announced a reduction of £140 a head. The new table shows that but for the £140-a-head reduction Wandsworth's charge of £136 for this year would have been reduced by £2 a head because of its success in collecting the tax.

Food hall response poor, says show chief

TRADE response to the £1.5 million food hall on the Royal Show ground at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, opened at this year's show, has disappointed the organisers, the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

Robin Hicks, the society's chief executive, said at the show that in spite of initially positive signs from several major food retailers to the idea of a British food showcase at the show, the only supermarket which took space was Sainsbury.

"We know that some of the other companies have sent representatives to see how things have gone, and we hope that in the future they'll reconsider and become involved," Mr Hicks said.

Paul Judge, chairman of Food From Britain, supported his view but added that the full market price of almost £1,000 per booth had probably deterred many potential exhibitors.

Of major concern to Mr Judge is the £5 billion British trade deficit in food, with fruit and vegetables, bacon and ham and poultry heading the quantity league of food imported to Britain.

The Royal Show reported a fall in attendance. By 1pm yesterday, the final day of this four-day event, 186,433 people had clicked through the turnstiles, just over 6,000 fewer than last year.

RESULTS

CHAMPIONS - Sheep: Border Leicester ram, Brown Partners, Lanark, Strathclyde; res Dorset Down ram, W Burrough & Son Ltd, Axminster, Devon. Beef: Lincoln cow, Broadmeadows Airedale, Dick, Mains, Throok, Stirling; res Charolais bull, Cavers Crackerjack, Baggrave Farms, Houghton, Leicestershire. Dairy: Holstein Friesian cow, Grantchester Heather, C. Sussan-Taylor, Crewes, Cheshire; res Ayrshire cow, Edgewood Beauty 35th, Arthur Lawrie & Sons, Minshott, Kinross.

DAIRY - Dairy aborigine: J C Hayward, Newark, Notts; res L M Thomas and Son, Drysgill, Dyfed. Holstein Friesian: C J Sussan-Taylor, Crewes; res Joyland Farm, Preston, Lancs. British Holstein: C N Hart, Malmesbury, Wilt; res H Cope & Son, Lichfield, Staffs. Ayrshire: Arthur Lawrie & Sons, Minshott, Kinross; res J K Rennie, Brocklehill, Ayr. Jerseys: Rixton Sporting Ltd, Marlborough, Wilt; res M Richards, Radlett, Herts.

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4 NIGHTS

White Hart Hotel, Andover. Forté Crest, Birmingham. The Roebuck, Biddulph Hill. Forté Crest, Cardiff. Hotel de la Bère, Cheltenham. Forté Crest, Coventry. The Imperial, Exmouth. Barnstaple. The Angel and Royal, Grantham. Forté Crest, Grimsby. The White Horse Hotel, Hertfordshire. The George, Huntingdon. The And Heathrow, London. The Strand Palace, London. The Blue Boat, Malden. The Chequers, Newbury. The Green Man, Old Harlow. Ship Hotel, Parkgate/Cheshire. The Tontine, Peebles. Forté Crest, Preston. Forté Crest, Rampton. The Lion, Shrewsbury. The Prince of Wales Hotel, Southport. The White Swan, Stratford-upon-Avon. Forté Crest, Swansea. Gorkford's Hotel, Swindon. The Rose and Crown, Tonbridge.

3 NIGHTS

The Brudenell, Aldborough. The Swan Hotel, Alton. The Beverley Arms, Beverley. The Imperial Hotel, Blackpool. Forté Crest, Bramhope.

Forté Crest, Bristol. The Suffolk, Bury St Edmunds. The Chaucer Hotel, Canterbury. Blossoms Hotel, Chester. The Castle, Conwy. The Waterloo Hotel, Crowthorne. The White Horse Hotel, Darlington. The Luttrell Arms, Dunstable. Forté Crest, Farmborough. The Crown, Framlingham. Forté Crest, Glastonbury. Forté Crest, Guildford. The Ecclestone Headstone, The Royal Isle of Wight/Ventnor. The Queen's Leeds. The White Hart, Lincoln. Cumberland Hotel, London. Forté Crest, Regent's Park, London. St George's Hotel, London. Forté Crest, Bloomsbury, London. The Bull, Long Melford. The Castle and Ball, Marlborough. Forté Crest, Milton Keynes. The Marine, North Berwick. Eastgate Hotel, Oxford. The Athol Palace, Pledochy. Forté Crest, Portsmouth. The White Horse, Romsey. The White Hart, Salisbury. Forté Crest, Sheffield. The Dolphin, Southampton. Rutlands Hotel, St Andrews. The Bedford, Tavistock. The Bell, Theobald. The Kings Head, Wimbome. Wimbome Beach Hill Hotel, Wimbome. The Gifford, Worcester.

2 NIGHTS

The Berystede, Acoot. The Bath Spa Hotel, Bath. The Blue Swan, Helmsley. The Westbury, London. The Conquest, Angles, Marlton. The Randolph, Oxford. Gull House Hotel, Basing. The Imperial, Torquay. Leeming House Hotel, Ulswater. The Belvidere, Windermere. The Old England, Windermere. The Boat Hotel, Woodstock.

Slump leaves CAA facing an £18m shortfall

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE Civil Aviation Authority could be technically bankrupt by the end of this year and is preparing to ask the government for help in maintaining its air traffic and safety services.

In a message to the authority's 7,500 staff, Tom Murphy, the managing director, says finances are in "disarray" and warns them that

during the present financial year there could be an £18 million shortfall on planned income. "To make matters worse income is running £6 million below budget for the first quarter," he says in the staff newspaper *Airway*.

Departments have been ordered to cut non-urgent expenditure and to delay capital expenditure where possible. Room for manoeuvre is, however, limited.

The CAA, which is not funded by the taxpayer, raises about £450 million a year from Eurocontrol — a central body responsible for charging airlines flying in European airspace. Eurocontrol's income, which is divided among member states, has been hit by the slump in traffic that followed the outbreak of the Gulf war and it is estimated that the CAA will receive £14 million less than it had budgeted for from the organisation this year.

At the same time the CAA is committed to spending about £100 million a year on air traffic control improvements using money it borrows through the government. The amount it is allowed to borrow this year has already been set and ministers will have to be convinced everything has been done to cut costs before agreeing to any increase.

With airlines suffering because of the recession and their charges already set for the year there is little chance of any additional income being obtained from them. Yet the authority has to maintain all its air traffic controllers and continue to recruit more to cope with any future growth in traffic. It is also unable to make cuts in the safety inspectorate, medical services and pilot licensing procedures which are statutory responsibilities.

Mr Murphy says that the CAA will fail to recover its costs, miss the agreed rate of return on capital targets and exceed the government cash limit. "We must show those who pay our charges, particularly the airlines who are bearing the brunt of the recession and the after-effects of the Gulf war, that future increases in our rates are genuinely necessary," he said.

"That means cutting all expenditure that is not essential to our basic safety responsibilities."

Falconry centre spreads its wings

By PETER DAVENPORT

HIGH above the Yorkshire Dales a red kite, a bird once so common in the British Isles that it scavenged for food in the cities but is now confined to west Wales, glimpses the morrow of meat held in Chris O'Donnell's gloved hand and swoops down, talons outstretched, to secure its meal.

In a series of limestone pens beneath a converted barn off the busy A65 at Giggleswick, near Settle, North Yorkshire, a collection of 60 other birds of prey, many alien to British skies, await their turn to perform: bald eagles from America, bateleur eagles from Africa, griffin vultures, an Andean condor and various owls, hawks and falcons.

The Yorkshire Dales Falconry and Conservation Centre has grown from a hobby and recipient of a £40-a-week government enterprise allowance to a project that will have cost almost £1 million by the time it is complete. It has already won new-business awards for the owners, Mr O'Donnell and



Bird on the hand: Chris O'Donnell with a red kite from his Dales falconry, which he hopes will attract up to 100,000 visitors a year

his wife Suzanne. After years of planning and explanations to sceptical bank and building society managers, the couple have opened what they claim is the largest purpose-built falconry in the country. They need 30,000 paying visitors a year to break even and begin paying off the loans totalling £500,000, but they are confident of attracting up to 100,000.

As well as giving daily flying exhibitions and offer-

ing courses to train enthusiasts to hunt with a hawk, the centre's main aim is to provide educational facilities and increase public awareness of the survival threats faced by many birds of prey.

It will help to safeguard rare breeds by running a captive breeding programme and lending birds to other institutions around the world. In the case of the red kite, Mr O'Donnell says that he intends to release pairs in the Dales to begin a wild

population. Just 50 pairs remain in Wales, and the six at the centre had to be imported from Germany.

Mr O'Donnell has been interested in birds of prey since, at the age of 12, he found a kestrel with its training swivels and leashes. "I really had no idea how to look after it and fed it on sausages and bacon for seven or eight months before I lost it. Over the years I kept various hawks and falcons and learnt a lot along the way.

Then Suzanne and I decided to develop my hobby as a business, first giving demonstrations and eventually as a purpose-built centre. Now I look after the birds and she looks after the books."

They found the redundant barn and 15 acres of land near Giggleswick two years ago and the centre now employs 17 staff.

More than 1,000 exotic birds, including 100 rare owls, are threatened after the environment department

yesterday ordered the closure to the public within nine months of a wildlife park at Trispen, Cornwall.

Access to the park, which attracts more than 10,000 visitors a year, has been declared dangerous by a department inspector, Barry Goddard, its owner, said. "It costs £1,000 a week to feed and care for the birds and they have no future unless we can attract some sponsors to help keep the park as a private sanctuary."

Six years for young attacker

A schoolboy who carried out two street attacks within two hours was sentenced yesterday to six years' detention. Trevor Bernard, of Clapton, northeast London, was 15 when he carried out the attacks in November last year, the latest London crown court was told.

His first victim, Elizabeth Grant, aged 24, of Homerton, east London, was struck in the face as Bernard grabbed her handbag. Two hours later Bernard attacked Derek Gunn, aged 64, who was using a bank cash dispenser. He was stabbed in the stomach after refusing to hand over his wallet.

Case dropped

Charges against Raymond Ketteridge, aged 44, of Stoke Newington, north London, and Kevin Parry, aged 34, of Bermondsey, south London, accused of handling £70 million of stolen Bank of England securities, were dropped at the Central Criminal Court.

Hoaxer jailed

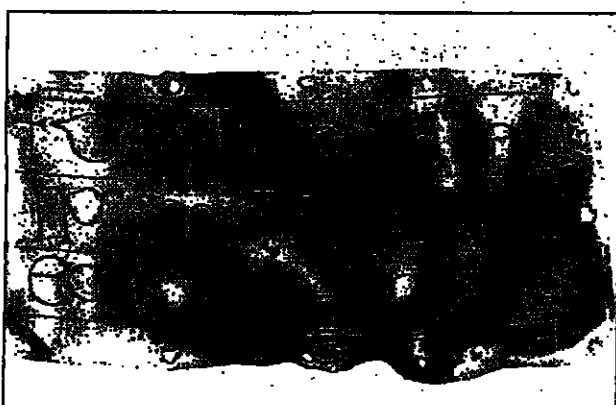
Gerard Donnelly, a student at the Central London polytechnic, was jailed for two years by Southwark crown court for making a bomb hoax call so that his girlfriend would not have to sit an exam.

Wages robbery

Armed raiders stole wages from a security van after holding hostage an employee from a firm in Dungeness, Kent. Securicor said a large sum of money was involved.

Homes order

A building firm has been ordered to knock down six new homes in Belper, Derbyshire, because they are too high.



A drawing of a lead plaque inscribed with Anglo-Saxon names which was found at Flixborough

Quarry dig reveals a 'Saxon Pompeii'

A TWO-YEAR archaeological excavation at a commercial sand quarry on Humberside has uncovered what it thought to be one of the most important Middle Saxon settlements found in this country (Peter Davenport writes).

Archaeologists unearthed about 9,000 objects, including decorated jewellery, writing equipment and a plaque bearing seven Anglo-Saxon names. The archaeologists say that the pieces indicate a community "unusually wealthy and remarkably literate".

Kevin Leahy, keeper of archaeology at Scunthorpe museum, whose discovery in 1988 of Saxon burials in the quarry led to the excavation, said yesterday that the site was a time capsule of Middle Saxon life during a 200-year period beginning in about 700. "This find is of national importance and gives us our best chance to date to look at the day-to-day life, both socially and economically of a high-status, Middle Saxon community," he said. "The site is like an Anglo-Saxon Pompeii, but with the remains preserved by wind-blown sand instead of ash."

The excavations, at Flixborough, near Scunthorpe, were mainly funded by a £206,000 grant from English Heritage.

The archaeological importance of the site was unsuspected until Mr Leahy's discovery of burials. Further investigation revealed that the burial ground was associated with buildings, ovens, and hearths separated by gravel paths and surrounded by a ditch. Post holes and wall trenches indicated the position of 14 timber buildings, and fragments of glass and lead strip indicated that windows may have been glazed, adding to evidence that the structures were important public buildings. Other areas were devoted to crafts and industry, and 300 loom weights, indicating large-scale textile production, were found.

Perhaps the most unusual discovery was a small lead plaque inscribed with seven Anglo-Saxon names, six men and a woman, and thought likely to have had religious significance. Archaeologists also discovered writing implements, including an elegant silver stylus, thought to be unique and indicating the high status of its owner.

Some of the pieces are to appear in a British Museum exhibition, "The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600-900", to open in November.

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Kinnock attacks Major on rises

In angry question-time exchanges, Neil Kinnock challenged the prime minister to take powers to hold down the salaries of the water company chairmen. He asked if John Major had believed that they would turn out to be "machines for printing money".

Mr Major said that the government did not legislate on everything it disagreed with. A Labour government would seek to control all the private sector.

Phone plans



Five telecommunications companies have applied to enter the market since the government announced the end of the duopoly. Peter Lilley (above), industry secretary, said in a written reply.

Parliament next week

The business in the Commons next week will be:

Monday: Road traffic bill, Lords amendments.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion on low incomes.

Wednesday: Motions on Northern Ireland.

Thursday: Proceedings on British Railways Board (finances) bill.

Friday: Debate on the environment.

The business in the Lords will be:

Monday: Local government finance and valuation bill, committee.

Tuesday: Export and investment guarantees bill, committee.

Wednesday: Dangerous dogs bill, committee.

Thursday: Ports bill, report.

Friday: Motion on student loans.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: Wildlife and countryside (amendment) bill, Lords amendments.

Tories' Four Musketeers take battle to Labour

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

WITH the fourth national opinion poll in succession recording today that the Tories have closed the gap on Labour, ministers believe that the political tide is now turning and that they are back on course for an election victory.

Much of the credit for the improvement is being given to the "Four Musketeers" who are meeting daily to co-ordinate government efforts: Richard Ryder, the chief whip, John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, Chris Patten, Conservative party chairman, and John Wakeham, energy secretary.

Previous regular sessions between the four have become a daily occurrence as the government has sought to wrest back control of the political agenda after a period during which it appeared to be reacting to events. "The aim is to get the debates taking place on our territory," a senior Tory said. And to take the attack to Labour.

The four are concentrating on organising ministers to target their speeches on a common theme, notably the attack on Labour's plan for a national minimum wage. They are ensuring that backbenchers are briefed to concentrate on particular subjects on which Labour is regarded as vulnerable. They are linking ministerial effort more closely with the improved output from Conservative central office and they are reminding members of the government that they are, as one strategist puts it, "in politics as well as in office".

Underpinning their efforts is the belief of the Tory high command that the prime minister's popularity is a strong electoral asset, that the Labour vote remains a "soft" vote and that the electorate has not been persuaded that Neil Kinnock is prime ministerial material. They also believe that Labour peaked too soon.

One minister said last night: "People are looking for reasons to re-elect us and we have begun to get our act together".

Typically, this week, the Four Musketeers planned the programme that started by switching the prime minister's statement on the successful Luxembourg European Community summit from Tuesday to Monday. It was noticeable that in the exchanges not a single Tory voice was raised in criticism and Labour speakers remarked on the absence from the Conservative benches of some of the more prominent Euro-sceptics.

Tuesday saw the home secretary's statement on weeding out bogus asylum seekers, backed by the Labour front bench but criticised from the Opposition backbenches, revealing Labour tensions.

The prime minister's long-planned speech on education had already been slated in for Wednesday and yesterday came the announcement of the Hong Kong airport deal, with news that Mr Major would fly to Peking before the end of the year. The aim is to demonstrate that the government is very much in business with plenty to do.

Meanwhile, the co-ordinating group is seeking to step up the attack on Labour. They have begun to play the Opposition's game of timing press conferences and policy launches at the same time as, or even the day before, a government announcement. Thus Treasury minister Francis Maude was ready with a counter-attack on Labour's citizen's charter the day Mr Kinnock launched it. On science and technology, the government got its opposition in the day before a Labour effort.

There are no regrets in the ministerial group about the launching of the "Labour lies" attack after the Monmouth by-election, which some ministers hold responsible for the



Ryder: chief whip is at heart of pre-election battle

period when Labour regained its poll lead (They argue that it began before the by-election but was not picked up by the media). They say that the exercise had to be mounted to expose Labour's tactics and to neutralise the subject before the general election. And they argue that William Waldegrave, the health secretary, has succeeded in establishing that Labour is not committed to spend any more on health than the Tories.

Ministers are also pleased with the results of the exercise in costing Labour's programme. Claims that it could result in a Labour government putting up income tax by 15p in the pound to sustain a £35 billion-a-year increase in spending are regarded as "over the top" by some Tory MPs, but they have proved an effective fillip to Conservative party morale.

For Wakeham, MacGregor, Patten and Ryder the election has begun.

Baker insists on reversing life sentence defeats

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government will insist on reinstating the home secretary's power to decide the length of sentence served by murderers because of fears that handing the decision to a parole board review body would lead to earlier release.

Ministerial sources confirmed last night that the Commons is expected to be asked to reverse the four government defeats inflicted by peers on sentencing policy amendments in the criminal justice bill. They also made clear that the government believes the public will see the changes made by the Lords as likely to lead to shorter sentences for murderers.

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, was shaken by the surprise revolt by many Tory and legal peers. He had hoped that the Lords decision not to insist on its original amendment to abolish mandatory life sentences for murderers had cleared the way for the bill to receive royal assent within days. Instead, the bill is now embroiled in a parliamentary "ping-pong match" between the two Houses until agreement is reached.

A senior government source in the Lords said: "We do see considerable difficulties in giving way to the Lords. Commons have a better idea than some Lords as to what the public reaction would be to changing sentencing policy for murderers".

But the reversal of the four Lords amendments inevitably will increase tension between the Lords and Commons and could delay the summer recess

if the peers decide to remain in rebellious mood. Mr Baker is particularly incensed at the Lords amendment that would have the effect of transferring his power to decide when murderers should be released from prison and hand it to a parole board review body.

Other amendments change the release procedures by removing the proposed power of the home secretary to postpone release of prisoners serving a discretionary life sentence if he has fears about public unrest and extends the discretion for a trial judge to determine the time served by a life.

The four defeats within an hour showed up the inexperience of Lord Waddington, leader of the Lords, and the new chief whip, Lord Hesketh, in handling Tory peers tactfully. After assurances from senior legal peers that they would not try to insist on their original amendment to abolish the mandatory life sentence for murder, Lord Waddington appeared confident that there was no further threat to the criminal justice bill.

Many senior peers were astonished that Lord Waddington insisted on pushing the four amendments to the vote in full knowledge that he would be defeated on each occasion. A senior Labour peer said that the government's contempt for votes taken in the Lords was leading to the collapse of the "usual channels" for reaching agreement between the political parties on business.

Publicity drive backfires

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A GOVERNMENT attempt to give greater publicity to the work of Whitehall departments has backfired because a huge increase in the cost of annual reports has resulted in fewer sales.

The poor outcome of the initiative has meant that the Stationery Office has made a loss of £78,000 because sales of the reports have not matched printing and distribution costs of £357,000.

The cost of purchasing all departmental reports and a statistical supplement has doubled compared with the price under the old system when an annual public expenditure report plus public expenditure commentaries were produced in standard government documents.

Part of the increase in costs was due to departmental ambitions to produce glossy reports using colour, graphics and artwork, a report by the Treasury and civil service select committee said. Warning of the danger of the vicious circle of rising prices and falling sales, the MPs said that departments must beware of extravagance in producing reports.

The committee also criticised the presentation of a number of statistics in the annual reports for failing to provide readers with an adequate overall impression of how well departments had spent public money.

The New System of Departmental Reports, Treasury and civil service committee, fifth report (Stationery Office, £14.10).

Dewar says British Steel are vandals

By PETER MULLIGAN

THE Labour party described British Steel last night as industrial vandals waging a vendetta against Scotland with the aim of ending steel-making north of the border.

The allegation came from Donald Dewar, the shadow Scottish secretary, who also accused ministers of standing by while the industry declined.

He was speaking in the Commons in the light of an announcement by British Steel that it is to close the plate mill at Dalzell, Lanarkshire, with another at Scunthorpe. That will cause the loss of

1,100 jobs. A new mill on Teesside creating 500 jobs is planned.

Mr Dewar said that there was a case for further investment at Dalzell and called on government ministers not to stick to the view that the matter was one for the company to decide on commercial considerations.

Asking for plants to be offered for sale, he said: "If British Steel is so certain there is no case for the strip mill at Ravenscraig or the plate mill at Dalzell, what risk do they run in testing the market?"

A-Z guide to the other place set up for peers

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher, assured of elevation to the peerage, will qualify for a place on a course designed to accustom newcomers to the idiosyncratic ways of the upper House.

For commoners, even those with the stature gained by years in high office, the mysteries of the House of Lords have proved so confusing that the House has decided that the peers should be offered training after taking their seats.

Under the courses, to be set up by the Lords procedure committee, new peers will be pointed towards the myriad eating and drinking places with their various rules covering dress and guests.

Anecdotal evidence abounds of new peers losing their way, voting in the wrong lobby or keeping silent for months through ignorance of the procedures governing the self-regulated Lords which, unlike the Commons, lacks the guidance of a Speaker. The new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, is among those who have had to ask the way to the chamber.

Lord Palmer, an independent hereditary peer and farmer, wrote to the procedure committee after taking his seat last October suggesting some sort of apprenticeship. "There have been a couple of cosy



Lady Flather: wandering lonely as a cloud

elderly peers who have taken one under their wing," he said, "but it would enrich the House of Lords if we had this induction period because the more we know about the set-up the more we can contribute."

Lady Flather said that she was left with a "wandering lonely-as-a-cloud" feeling during her early days as a new life peer. It was a couple of weeks before she discovered the writing room.

The new Tory "working" peer, Lord Marlesford, formerly the journalist Mark Schreiber, said: "For me, the problem was that, having observed the Commons from the press gallery for 15 years, you realise how very

different this place is in both its procedures and its behaviour pattern."

He added: "One has been appalled at how little logistical facilities there are, although the staff are marvellous. I knew I could not aspire to a desk or even a telephone, but I had hopes of at least a locker. But I am grateful for a coat peg."

Lady Denton, another new Tory life peer, also thought the courses would help. "The courtesy you receive is second to none, but you hesitate to ask things," she said. "We do not maximise all the benefits the House offers us because we do not know about them."

Old Commons hands dismissed the scheme as too much "nannying". "Coming from the Commons to the Lords is like moving off a fast-moving escalator and dropping on to a flat," the former Labour defence secretary, Lord Mason of Barnsley, said. "The question has arisen because there are complete strangers to Parliament and all its ways."

Lord Cocks, a former Labour chief whip, said: "There is only one way to learn a job and that is to do it. Since life peers are carefully selected, one supposes they would be able to pick up the ropes fairly quickly."

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Huddleston fights on to realise dream of justice

FROM GAVIN BELL IN DURBAN

HIS body is gaunt with age and illness, his step is faltering, but the voice of moral outrage is as strong as ever. Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, who has been invoking divine wrath on apartheid for almost half a century, still perceives a need to exercise it with undiminished vigour. "We have been led from slavery, but we are not yet in the promised land," he declared to a standing ovation from the African National Congress this week.

ANC old guard faces rejection

By GAVIN BELL

A YOUNGER generation of anti-apartheid activists is poised to oust many old guard leaders of the African National Congress in elections at its conference today.

A preliminary list of nominations for an enlarged executive committee shows strong support for members who organised civil disobedience campaigns while most of the leadership was in exile, or in prison. Moderate figures dominate the list for the top five executive posts. Nelson Mandela, the deputy president, is unopposed to succeed Oliver Tambo as president, and Thabo Mbeki, the director of foreign affairs, is running for deputy president.

The only hardliner trying for senior office is Harry Gwala, leader of the Natal Midlands, who opposed the ANC's decision to suspend military operations. A notable omission is Chris Hani, the hawkish chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing. The results are expected tomorrow.

racist laws, but insists the struggle for social justice is not over. When the ANC invited him to attend its first national conference in South Africa for three decades, he agonised over whether to accept, saying: "I always said I would never return until apartheid was dead. That is still far from being the case, but I felt morally bound to make whatever contribution I could to further the peace process."

He says that he has not come back to celebrate, but he has been enjoying reunions with old comrades such as the ANC leaders, Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, and musicians in a township jazz band he formed in the 1950s. Visiting Kliptown, where the ANC proclaimed its freedom charter in 1955, the archbishop reminisced with Mr Sisulu. "That's where I was standing, over there," Mr Sisulu gestured. "Yes, and the police tried to arrest you, but I wouldn't let them," the archbishop chuckled.

More sombre memories awaited the archbishop on his return to a Johannesburg suburb where he ministered to a black community known as Sophiatown. At dawn on February 9, 1955, the turbulent priest in ungainly cassock was pushed aside by bulldozers demolishing his parishioners' homes in order to make way for a white suburb called Triomf. "This is the place which mated me in my faith, my politics and my love, and converted me to an enduring hatred of apartheid," he said.

The archbishop was disconcerted to find only one remnant of his parish — his old church building, formerly the Church of Christ the King, which is now the Pinkster Protestant Kerk.

● Johannesburg: The foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, will visit South Africa on Monday. A British embassy spokesman said that he will meet President de Klerk, Mr Mandela, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, head of the Zulu Inkatha movement, and leading businessmen.



Rock of age: against the backdrop of the granite portraits of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, President Bush formally dedicates the 50-year-old Mount Rushmore monument in the Black Hills of South Dakota to mark Independence Day

BATON ROUGE NOTEBOOK by Peter Stothard

Forensic ghouls gather at killer's grave

THE body politic has begun to take on a new American meaning. After the exhumation last month of President Zachary Taylor to see if he had been murdered by arsenic poisoning (he had not), Carl Weiss of Baton Rouge is next in line.

Weiss was the man famous for shooting Huey Long, the Louisiana governor and legendary dictator. On a September day in 1935 this mild-mannered doctor with few political interests and no criminal record took a .32 calibre pistol to the state capital and fired what is alleged to have been a single shot into the great man's kidney. He was immediately shot down himself by at least 60 bullets from the state bodyguard of cronies, who constantly surrounded the man they called the King Fish.

Why did Weiss do it? Was



Weiss: mysterious killer of Louisiana governor

Long scheming against his father-in-law, a prominent local judge? Had Long made racial slurs against Weiss's family, attempting to "tarbrush" it with negro ancestry. The latter has always been considered likely, but it is not enough for James E. Starrs, a scientist at George

Washington University who intends to travel to Baton Rouge in October to dig up the bullet-ridden remains. Accompanied by anthropologists, pathologists, toxicologists and firearms experts, he thinks that he can examine the angles from which the bullets were fired to ascertain if Weiss had been in a position to do the deed. He also wonders if Weiss might have suffered from a brain tumour or drug addiction.

Some miles from the graveyard lies Louisiana State University's own immaculate plantation, complete with original slave quarters, slave hospitals (where they were tended because they were so valuable), and a museum of pathetic bills of sale in which buyers were asked how many children they might require. Visitors to

this unusual academic resource are greeted by a bronze statue of an elderly black man, bent by years, doffing his hat as they park their cars.

All very tasteful, the slave houses look like the kind of mountain properties in which prosperous Washingtonians spend their weekends. There is not a whip in sight. The statue, however, has a name, "The Good Darkie", given to it in 1927 in recognition of the "arduous and faithful service" rendered by the black workers of Louisiana.

To today's black visitors, of whom there are a growing number, this is too much to bear. The name has been covered by a scratched wood board. The guidebook calls the work "Uncle Jack", which for many blacks is hardly less offensive. I doubt that the statue will survive much longer. To see

The Good Darkie in a few years' time, you will probably need the services of Mr Starrs's exhumation team.

Baton Rouge, like most state capitals, is something of a bureaucratic madhouse. The politicians do not need to know much; but they do need to know whom they like. What Baton Rouge most like is bashing New Orleans, the big city down the Mississippi, which flaunts its sex and witchcraft industry before the God-fearing folk from everywhere else.

New Orleans is fighting back. Arthur Morrell, the Democrat representative, has commissioned a study for New Orleans to secede. "If we were not part of Louisiana, we'd be much better off," he said. "If fact, we'd be better off if we weren't in the USA either. We could qualify for Third World aid."

US agrees to mining ban in Antarctica

Washington — The United States has decided that the Antarctic should not be explored for oil and gas for at least 50 years. The policy shift has cleared the way for the signing of a pact among 26 countries, including Britain, that was drafted three months ago (Susan Elliott writes).

The accord will ban mineral exploration in the Antarctic for 50 years. Restrictions will only be lifted later if all the signatories with full voting rights agree. The agreement is designed to protect native species of plants and animals and to restrict tourism, waste disposal and pollution.

Environmental groups welcomed Washington's decision, as two weeks ago the United States blocked the signing of the draft accord at a conference to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Antarctic treaty. Delegates were annoyed that Washington wanted to introduce an amendment that would let any country pull out if it proposed a clause that was not adopted within three years.

Volcano alert

Manila — As the volcanic Mount Pinatubo shook and spewed ash up to nine miles in the air, Fidel Ramos, the chairman of the Philippines national co-ordinating council, said that river channels were being deepened or diverted to protect at least 146 villages from landslides. (AP)

Bullet proof

Columbus, Nebraska — A boy, aged 11, told a judge that he shot a woman in the back with a .22-calibre rifle "the way it just happened". Glenn Liebke, aged 45, who is now in prison, was shot as he walked by his home. The boy was charged with committing a delinquent act and ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment. (AP)

Butchers' lot

Bangkok — Thai police were searching for two Thais and a Korean after raising a farm near Bangkok which butchered bears for restaurants catering to sex tourists. Bear paws are marketed in Thailand as aphrodisiacs. Raids also found five tigers, deer, leopards, tigers, a fox, snakes and crocodiles. (Reuters)

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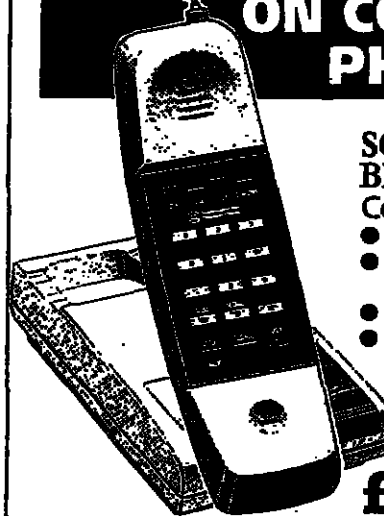
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Peking's critics welcome Hong Kong accord but balk at political cost

Britain and China agree airport deal

From PAUL MOONEY
IN HONG KONG

OPINIONS were divided in Hong Kong yesterday after the announcement that Britain and China have reached an agreement on the colony's new airport, ending nine months of negotiations that caused serious worry about the territory's future.

Dame Lydia Dunn, a leading businesswoman and senior member of the executive council, said the agreement had unanimous support. In the short term, the accord would remove the uncertainties of the past few months, and in the long term would boost Hong Kong's economy.

Jimmy McGregor, a councillor, said the agreement was the best that could be reached under the circumstances, and the airport project could now proceed. "It's very easy to say now we should have done this, or we should have done the other thing. But we now have an airport project under way which is of vital importance to Hong Kong." However, he



Dunn: go-ahead would boost economy

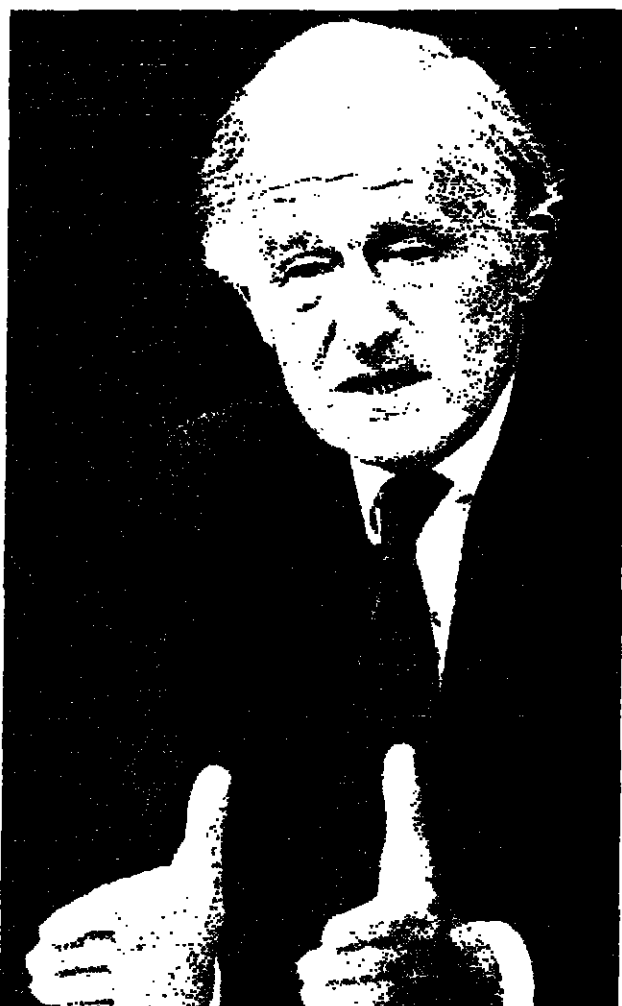
expressed concern that the concessions allowing Chinese representation on the airport authority could lead to intervention in Hong Kong affairs before 1997. "The worry is that this agreement by the British government will become a precedent for other interventions by China, when China feels its best interests are served by having representation on various functioning groups in Hong Kong." Peter Wong, deputy convenor of the

legislative council's ad hoc group on the airport, welcomed the involvement of John Major in resolving the dispute. "I think he recognised that this is something Hong Kong desperately wants settled. I'm glad that it's being settled at the highest level."

Though the announcement came after the stock market closed, it had reacted favourably, rising 54 points for the day, as word spread. "People are very positive about any sort of agreement regarding the airport," said a Hong Kong securities analyst.

Martin Lee, a councillor and critic of China, said he found the memorandum "agreeable with serious reservations. I am not terribly happy about the agreement, but I'm not terribly disappointed either." The concessions regarding fiscal reserves and Hong Kong borrowing "seriously impinge on the degree of self-autonomy Hong Kong is supposed to enjoy."

Major's visit, page 1
Leading article, page 19



Measure of agreement: Sir David Wilson, Hong Kong's governor, answering questions yesterday

Bumper crop in Iraq aids allied sanctions stance

From ANDREW FINKEL IN ZAKHO, NORTHERN IRAQ

AMERICAN soldiers no longer stand guard outside the most imposing building on the Zakho skyline in northern Iraq. Where once the allied forces had their headquarters, the grain elevators have now reverted to their original purpose and the silos are being filled with summer wheat.

This semblance of normality is one prerequisite of the allies' withdrawal, but American advisers on disaster relief from the state department make no secret of the fact that one motive for allowing this year's bumper crop to be gathered is to avoid giving Baghdad a reason to ask for sanctions against it to be lifted. If the grain stayed in the fields, the Iraqi government could argue that it needed to be able to sell oil to feed people whose economy was destroyed by the allied occupation.

But the determination to get in the harvest contrasts with what is happening elsewhere. Members of the American disaster assistance relief team confess that, to the east of the

security zone in territory now held by the rebel Kurdish leadership, the wheat will go largely uncollected. There is only one harvester reported operating from the east of the zone all the way to the Iranian border. This is because help promised by Baghdad has not materialised and because the harvesters have been sold to Iran. Many of the terraced smallholdings will not be harvested because of the danger of landmines.

There is optimism, however, that famine could be avoided because of the "Saddam wheat" - the crop which Baghdad encouraged to be planted for victory after its invasion of Kuwait last August and the imposition of sanctions. Those who planted wheat could expect to be exempted from military call-up.

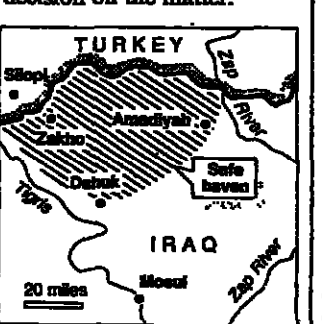
The allied occupation zone, where the sanctions are not enforced, produces a third of Iraq's cereal crop. Outside the zone, with sanctions in force, it is impossible to obtain spare parts for tractors. Aid workers are openly critical of sanctions which, when applied to food production, will make that job more difficult. "Saddam Hussein is not going to spend his national treasury to help the Kurds," said one.

An unwelcome complication is that the Kurdish leadership is now also demanding a 10 per cent levy which will invariably fall on the Kurdish farmers. There is a fear that this title will alienate the peshmerga fighters from their potential supporters.

At one stage last week, allied forces in Zakho appeared prepared to turn a blind eye to a peshmerga road block that was levying a customs duty on Turkish lorries for the very reason that they believe the supplies being carried may be reaching the south.

Even so, the economy of the security zone cannot be separated out from the rest of Iraq. In the zone, a can of sanction-busting soft drink sold at the roadside costs three dinars, or just under 50p, at black-market prices - the exact price of a full tank of petrol also imported from the south.

Ankara: A Turkish foreign ministry spokesman said that, after a discussion of the details of a proposed rapid reaction force with Paul Wolfowitz, the American deputy defence secretary, Turkey and the United States shared a common view on the need "to provide a deterrent to the Iraqi administration". But the spokesman said that the Turkish government had not yet taken a decision on the matter.



Lebanon begins peace talks with PLO

LEBANON opened talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Sidon and halted an army attack on two Palestinian refugee camps in the south after at least 65 people were killed (Ali Jaber writes).

Abdullah al-Amin, a state minister backed by Syria, and Shawkat Fakhour, the transport secretary, met five PLO leaders to discuss the civil and political rights of the 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Heavy fighting around the Mijeh Miyeh and Ain al-Hilweh refugee camps, the last remaining foothold of the PLO in Lebanon, subsided before the talks began. The Syrian-backed government, which is trying to extend its authority after 16 years of civil war, had refused to hold talks until it controlled the PLO's last bases with direct access to Israeli forces controlling parts of south Lebanon. Latest reports said that three more people had been killed and 12 others had been wounded in sniper fire and shelling.

Inspection trip

Geneva - United Nations inspectors who failed to gain access to all Iraq's nuclear facilities said a new team would be going to Baghdad. Rolf Ekus, director of the UN special commission in charge of eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said scrapping of its ballistic missiles was going ahead. (Reuters)

Mission to Shias

New York - Prince Saddam bin Aga Khan, the United Nations special envoy for humanitarian aid to the Gulf countries, will travel to Iraq next week to investigate the plight of tens of thousands of Shia Muslims. They are reported to be under attack from armed Iraqi forces in marshland in southern Iraq.

Mayor stabbed

Jerusalem - Masked men stabbed Nicola Afari, the Israeli-appointed deputy mayor of Ramallah in the West Bank as he was leaving home, security sources said. The incident occurred after leaflets were circulated criticising Israeli appointments of officials. (Reuters)

Cyprus hope

Ankara - Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary-general, will arrive in Turkey tomorrow amid speculation about the holding of talks on northern Cyprus. He is believed to be making a final push during his last days in office to resolve the problems of the divided island.

Algiers team

Algiers - Amid signs that calm has been restored, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, the new prime minister, presented his government to parliament. It was announced that Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front, will be tried by military court on charges of armed conspiracy against the state.

Bubble bursts for strong beer

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

BATTERED by a national boycott of its latest high-alcohol beer, an ailing Chicago-based brewer admitted yesterday that a masochist is no match for "neo-prohibition". The company withdrew a new label, Powermaster, from market shelves.

Long before the so-called "up-strength" 5.9 per cent alcohol drink left its maker's warehouses early this month, grassroots groups were working to seal its fate. Led by the Rev Calvin Butts, of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York, blacks in several large cities, including Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Dallas and New Orleans, joined forces to whitewash over posters of the brew.

Community leaders complained that the G. Heileman Brewing Co, which makes America's second most popular regular malt, Colt 45, was aiming the knockout version at inner-city blacks and other minorities, who suffer above-average rates of alcoholism and related diseases, including cirrhosis of the liver.

In the run-up to America's Independence Day celebrations yesterday, Heileman's promotion for Powermaster was particularly ill-timed. Mr Butts,

who is something of a folk hero in Harlem, said that he was "outraged and frightened" that Heileman was planning giant posters showing a black man with a bottle of Powermaster and the slogan "Bold not harsh". There was nothing powerful or masterly, he argued, about encouraging drunks in a neighbourhood which is already marred by high levels of drug abuse, crime and unemployment.

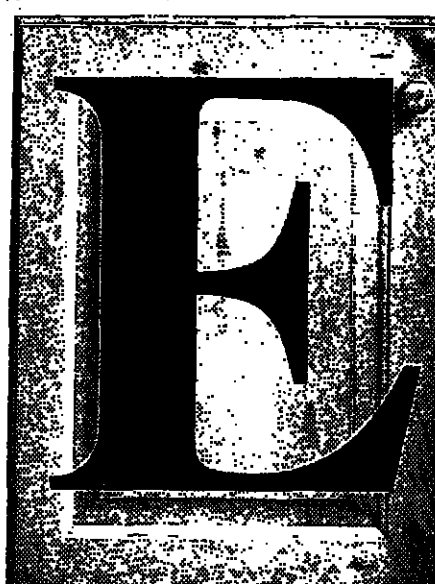
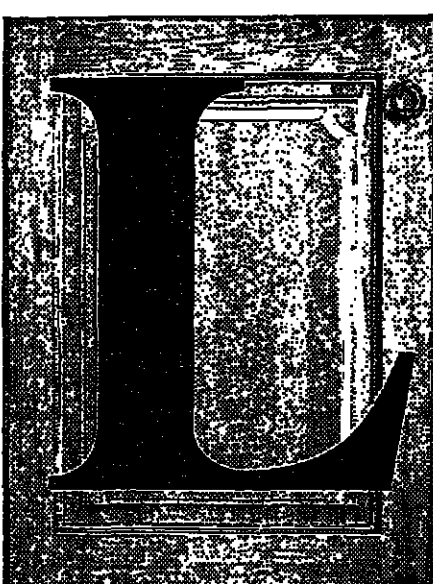
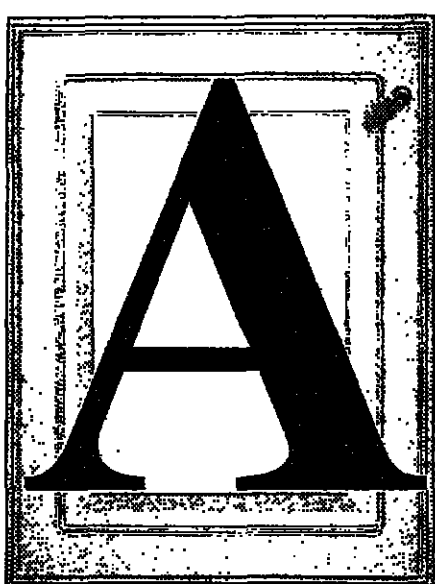
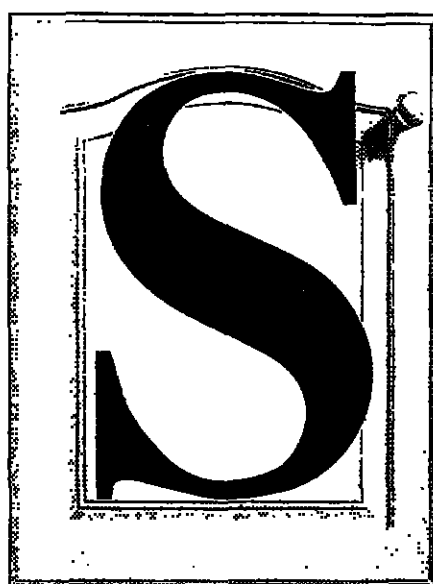
Eventually, consumer groups tried to persuade the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to force Heileman to change Powermaster's name. Sensing defeat, the company backed down on its planned poster campaign and decided to start promoting the new malt on radio only from July 15.

The commitment of the anti-alcohol lobby, however, proved too much for the big brewer, whose morale was dented by preliminary bankruptcy proceedings. Two Chicago priests camped outside Heileman's brewery in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and were arrested this week in a wave of adverse publicity that helped spread the boycott of Heileman's malt products to more than two dozen cities.

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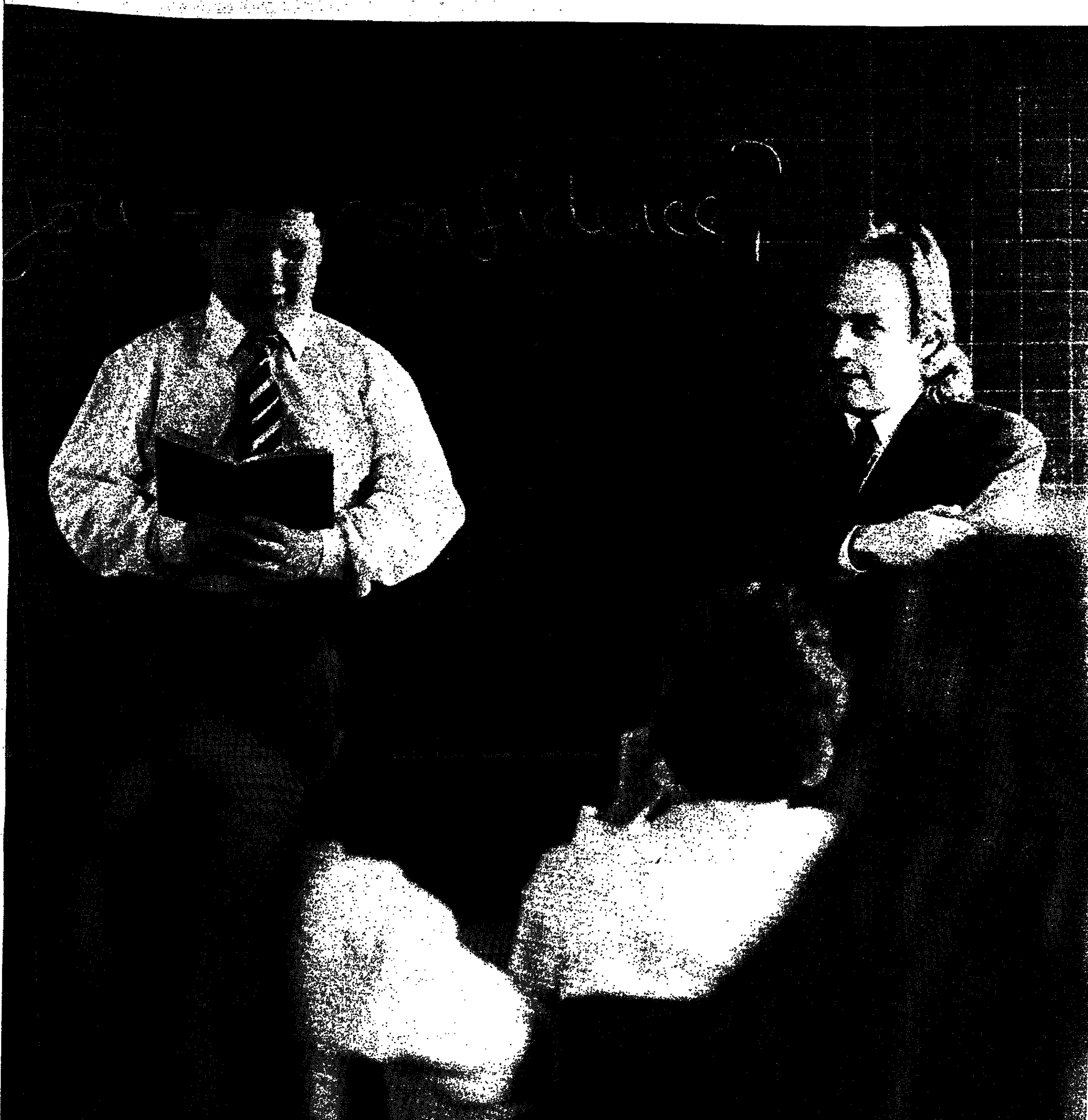
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Kremlin sees backing for international observers in Yugoslavia as setting unwelcome precedent

Soviet team voices fears over Balkan security plan

FROM GERARD DAVIES IN PRAGUE

THE Soviet Union yesterday expressed doubts over a diplomatic package devised by the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to resolve the turmoil in the Balkan republics.

As the emergency meeting in Prague of the Conflict Prevention Centre debated sending legal experts and mediators to advise Yugoslavia on a new constitution, the Soviet delegates announced they would have to seek advice from Moscow. The delegates apparently feared support for a goodwill mission could set a precedent of future interference in their own internal affairs, as nationalist tensions threaten to echo throughout the Baltic and other Soviet republics. The original "good offices" proposal was also opposed by Yugoslavia and Canada.

Original plans drawn up by an emergency session called for the dispatch of further international observers and a goodwill mission, as well as the cessation of hostilities. But a number of paragraphs had to be revised or deleted to get the 35-member states to agree.

Delegates waited throughout the day for word from Belgrade that the federal government would accept Wednesday night's draft agreement on sending a team of observers to stabilise the situation. Details of the agreement were to be worked out by the 12 members of the European Community at a special meeting in The Hague today.

Yuri Derjabin, Soviet ambassador to Czechoslovakia, said: "The Soviet delegates have reservations concerning the goodwill mission. Although they like the mechanics of it in general, they are not willing to accept it from the point of view of precedent."

Senior political officials of the CSCE hoped to prove wrong their critics who argue that the organisation is too

unwieldy. But the non-EC members might have jeopardised the chances of an important diplomatic success for Europe's new security organisation, which is facing its first test since it was set up under the Paris Conference last autumn.

CFCE "rules" stipulate that the meetings should be wound up within two days. Members now look likely to be forced to "stop the clock" to wait for the Yugoslav and Soviet decisions. The alternative would be to accept a much diluted proposal which some critics would label a failure.

It would be unfair to judge the success of the fledgling security system on such a tricky first assignment. Zdenek Matejka, Czechoslovakia's deputy foreign minister, believes that in spite of lengthy delays, the job would be completed in a short time in diplomatic terms. "It is necessary to form the document in general terms in order to get it passed. The details can then be worked out later. It is true that compromises have been reached, but that is inevitable. It is very difficult trying to get 35 countries to agree unanimously."

● Vienna: Alois Mock, the Austrian foreign minister, said yesterday that Austria would "without a doubt" move to recognise the independence of Slovenia and Croatia if the Yugoslav federal army used force to quash the two republics' desire to secede.

Franz Vranitzky, the chancellor, said, however, that Austria would not "go it alone" in according recognition. He said that if the Yugoslav conflict escalated anew, Vienna would "reserve the right" to withhold recognition. (AFP)

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All quiet: a Slovene woman and her son offering refreshment to local militiamen during a respite in the conflict yesterday. Yugoslav infantry and tanks started returning to barracks under a ceasefire agreement

EC unity crumbles in face of German self-interest

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE's foreign ministers gathered in The Hague today to try to engineer a common position on Yugoslavia. Their last joint stance was destroyed by Balkan violence in less than a week.

The optimistic consensus so rapidly cobbled together at the Luxembourg European Community summit will be hard to reach again. Today's meeting was called by France, which has made little secret of its determination to rein in the independent German line in favour of the rebel republics.

The European unanimity of last week has given way to bitter mistrust between Paris and Bonn. "You hear the language of the 19th century all over the place," said one

observer of French diplomacy yesterday.

A week ago, Europe's leaders sent a trio of foreign ministers on the first of two peace shuttles which helped to broker a fragile ceasefire in Yugoslavia. But the ministers made it clear that they would like to preserve the Yugoslav state, if that could be done without civil war. They returned to Luxembourg in time for the end of the summit and a round of congratulations. In truth, the community's united stand started coming apart as soon as the prime ministers left Luxembourg.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his foreign minister, returned to Bonn to find

that they had badly miscalculated the mood. As the Yugoslav government's tanks began to roll across the television screens of Western Europe, Herr Genscher began shading the German position towards Slovenia and Croatia.

Herr Genscher allowed it to be known that he favoured mediation in Yugoslavia by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) rather than by the European Community — a signal that Herr Genscher wanted discreetly to disown the EC's line. The community provided the bulk of the 13 votes needed to start the CSCE's crisis machinery, which is barely a fortnight old. Yesterday, after delegates of the CSCE's 35 states had been meeting for two days in Prague, a single initiative to send civilian observers to the republics was slowly emerging. EC aid worth £700 million will probably be frozen by the foreign ministers today.

Only Italy, threatened by waves of Yugoslav refugees if full-scale civil war breaks out, talked in the same terms. Italy fears invasion by up to 40,000 fleeing Yugoslavs. Germany has 600,000 Yugoslav "guest workers" within its borders, three-quarters of them Croats. Europe's "common foreign policy" is thus being driven not by 12 states but by the two nations with the most at stake. The conflict between the two principals is as old as the nation state. With 35 members including America and the Soviet Union, the CSCE is far too ponderous.

With no clear signposts from the international groups to which they belong, nation states are falling back on the tried and tested pursuit of national interest.

Serbian parents search for sons

By TIM JUDAH

HUNDREDS of anxious Serbian parents refused to leave their sweating coaches yesterday when they arrived in the Slovene capital from Belgrade after a 24-hour journey.

Earlier in the week they had stormed through the Serbian parliament demanding the return of their Yugoslav soldier sons from the fighting in Slovenia. After a two-night vigil outside the parliament the Red Cross finally laid on coaches which arrived at lunchtime in a Ljubljana car park.

"Why don't you get off the bus?" shouted curious Slovenes. "You're murderers," shouted some of the parents down the coach aisle. But most sat tight, probably more scared of jostling aggressive teams of Yugoslavs, Slovenes and foreign television crews that jammed each door.

Out in the shade, one mother who fainted was laid out on a blanket. Another who had braved the Slovenes gave an interview to the BBC's Kate Adie and sobbed: "I

don't want to give him up to any army. Let the Slovenes secede. What's the problem?" Another shouted: "I haven't heard from my son for a month. I just want him to live in peace."

Carrying a small bag, Halil Sutsak from Titov Veles in Macedonia explained that he had come all the way from the southernmost republic by train: "I haven't heard from my son since the war started. I don't even know if he's alive. I called the Red Cross and the army command but they could give me no information. I would lose my life for my son."

Making a calmer appraisal Benjamin Bajt, a Ljubljana farmer, said that he was very pleased the families had come. "It's just another pressure on the army, it shows that it is falling apart. They know what a great waste it would be to have a son die for Yugoslavia, a country which no longer exists. It would be quite different if their sons were fighting for their own country, for Serbia."



Father's home: a Yugoslav army deserter kissing his daughter after returning to his family in Croatia

Italians deploy tanks on frontier

GORIZIA, Italy — Italian tanks have been deployed along the border with Slovenia while a truce between the rebel republic and the Yugoslav army appears to be holding.

The Italian troops were ordered to the frontier late Wednesday as the Yugoslav army agreed a ceasefire in Slovenia. At a crossing 10 miles north of the Italian town of Trieste, two soldiers manning a machinegun with camouflaged Italian-made M113 tank was patrolling nearby.

Across the border, in Yugoslav town of Nova Gorica, the scene of heavy fighting last week, Dr Vidrih, who co-ordinates Slovene police and defence in the area, said all front posts were in the hands of Slovene authorities. Ro Novak, deputy leader of the local council, said that Slovene units had captured more than 500 soldiers. Six had been killed and 22 wounded fighting in the area which erupted after Slovenia declared independence.

Eight civilians were wounded but there were no casualties among Slovene forces, adding that there were still some 1,600 federal troops inside barracks in the area and about 2,000 Slovene fighters. "They have the better weapons but they are isolated. We control all the roads," said the local authorities welcoming all those captured from who were not from the republic of Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest and the army's power base. (Reuters)

Export action

London — Britain announced emergency measures today to end existing licences for the export of military equipment and industrial goods to Yugoslavia. A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said the decision would take immediate effect, but would be reviewed constantly.

Team dispirit

Athens — Croat athletes at the Mediterranean Games here were unofficially led by their sports association to stop competing in the Yugoslav team and go home. All 26 Slovene athletes left the 96 Croat athletes follow, the 236-strong Yugoslav team will be depleted by more than half. (Reuters)

Ferry exit

Munich — More than 400 German tourists left Yugoslavia for Italy on a chartered ferry, the AAC motoring club said, bringing the total number of Germans who have left on the Miro Polo to more than 1,200. The ferry was hired to help 3,000 Germans leave. (Reuters)

Show of support

Moscow — Lithuania, frustrated in its own move for independence, expressed solidarity with even and condemned the use of force to stop the republic's session. A statement said it was implementing its "unconfirmed" right to self-determination. (P)

Arson enquiry

Amsterdam — Dutch police are investigating a fire at a sales office of Yugoslavia Airlines in the city's museum district. Shattered glass was found on the pavement leading police to suspect a petrol bomb had been thrown. (AP)

Mountain reservists win a quiet war

FROM TIM JUDAH IN LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

AS THE Yugoslav federal presidency yesterday gave Slovenia a three-day ultimatum to give up control of its international border crossings, Slovene troops at this border crossing with Austria were convinced that the Yugoslav army would never retake control.

The morning after Slovenia declared independence, its troops moved to this mountain frontier to back up republic police in case of attack. Some lay in the grass with anti-tank weapons, while others scanned the slopes with binoculars, looking for advancing soldiers. They ran up a Slovene flag and a sign saying "Republic of Slovenia" was set up.

Exactly a week after federal troops began their drive to seize Yugoslavia's former border checkpoints, the sign of

the old Socialist Federative Republic was destined for the dustbin, the Slovene flag fluttered in the wind, and soldiers from the republic's territorial force, made up of reservists, relaxed on the porch of the border hotel. "I wouldn't call it a great victory, it was just a big one," said Jelko Bosman, aged 23, who works in a shoe factory. "It will only be a great victory once the Yugoslav army has left Slovenia altogether."

From the hotel kitchen came the smell of cooking, while army boots and dirty white socks had been placed in the sun on the hotel balconies.

Despite fierce fights for many Slovene border crossings, it was a quiet war in Ljubljana. Boyan Bilac, the police commander at the checkpoint, said that barricades had prevented the

army from bringing its tanks up the steep mountain road, but when 100 soldiers finally managed to walk to the border, the Slovene reservists negotiated and left. "Part of the deal was that they wouldn't take our flag down," Mr Bilac said.

However, last Monday, while the army high command was insisting that all checkpoints were under federal control, the Yugoslav troops gave up. "It was wise defeat, if they had not given up we would have had to retake it by force, they would have fired first, but anyway the whole point of the negotiations was to avoid bloodshed."

Surveying the mountains on either side of the road Darko Turk, a reservist, aged 25, who is forester in civilian life said: "We were not surprised that they gave up, because we

did not expect them to fight. Because of the mountains they could not bring helicopters, planes or helicopters there, only infantry."

While it is true that the Slovenes faced only small Yugoslav contingents, it contrasts to the miserable, image federal troops is plain. The eight reservists, who with Mr Turk on the hotel porch, were all in their 20s, they had been to school together, and many worked together.

"I did not enjoy a war, but I was fighting for my country," said Mr Bosman. Andrej Strukej, aged 24, who works with Mr Bosman, said that this had been "a war against the general Belgrade, not against other nations of Yugoslavia. Most soldiers thought fighting was over. We have our independence." Mr Turk said.



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هاتف الأمل

Shevardnadze quits Soviet party to champion reform

From MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

AFTER resigning as Soviet foreign minister last December, diverting warnings about the imminent risk of dictatorship, Eduard Shevardnadze has now decided to leave the ruling Communist party.

A text of his resignation letter was made public yesterday, immediately after it was sent. Mr Shevardnadze's decision follows his emergence this week as a founder of the Movement for Democratic Reform. At a press conference to launch the new group he said that his letter of resignation was written, but he had not made up his mind whether to send it.

Mr Shevardnadze, who retains his membership of the party's central committee after his resignation from the government, had been under investigation by the central committee after he made a speech in Vienna last month calling for the formation of a new democratic party. The former minister, who now heads an independent foreign policy research institute, said in his letter that the investigation was legally and morally unjustified, declaring: "There is, and can be, no place on a party member's right to think and speak his own thoughts and opinions. This right was given back to us by perestroika, which... was initiated by the party."

To submit to such an inquisition, whose aims were unclear and whose procedures were unestablished, he said, would be to "sanction the Communist party leadership's



Shevardnadze following Yeltsin into opposition

return to repression of dissidence". Although Mr Shevardnadze says that his letter should be taken as "notification of my resignation from the Communist party", the leadership is not obliged to accept it and his local party branch, in the foreign ministry, can summon him to defend his decision.

Mr Shevardnadze, a Georgian, has been a party member since he was 20. He received his higher education at the Georgian party school and became first secretary of the Georgian Communist party in 1972, a post he held for 13 years. He became a full member of the politburo in 1985, when he was awarded the foreign ministry portfolio.

Since then, however, his views have appeared to develop in an increasingly radical direction. He is the first former republic party leader to resign voluntarily from the party in which he made his career. His decision follows

that of Boris Yeltsin, who was once head of the Moscow and Sverdlovsk party and is now president of the Russian Federation, and several other leading radicals who are involved in the new Movement for Democratic Reform.

Mr Shevardnadze's resignation could encourage reformists to follow suit and accelerate the decline of the party into a hardline rump. Since the abolition of article six of the Soviet constitution last spring, which guaranteed the party's "leading role", party membership has ceased to be the prerequisite for advancement it used to be.

The diversification of Soviet politics has also provided opportunities for non-Communists to enter political life for the first time. While many will praise Mr Shevardnadze's decision as the move of an honourable man and a token of his commitment to the new movement, some will be more sceptical.

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Short cut: knees and no shirt feature in a Milan men's fashion collection shown by Giorgio Armani

East Germans give soft sell a tough time

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

TO UNILEVER, it must have seemed a good idea at the time of unification. All those east German housewives, liberated from their dreary lives, were sure to want whiter, brighter detergents to wash away the dirt of communism. The market was there and the advertisers were ordered to capture it.

The campaign message seemed simple. "Ossis" did not know how to use whiter, brighter powders and would be shown how by a brighter, whiter "Wessi". Unilever got a rapid response. Indignant letters from "Outraged" of Dresden and "Insulted" of Berlin poured in. "Ossi" housewives knew perfectly well how to wash their husbands' shirts and they wanted no lessons from stuckup "Wessies" on how to keep clean. The advertisement was withdrawn.

The west-dominated advertising industry has been finding out the hard way that the soft sell just does not work among communist-trained consumers. In the fat cat west German economy, the most successful campaigns rely on creating a make-believe world in which — if Philips are right

— love-making improves according to the kind of television you own.

Even the dairy industry boasts that "if milk kisses your coffee, life comes into the cup". But "Ossis" don't buy it. They could see all that sort of thing on their screens in the old days when it was all part of an unreal other world they scarcely hoped to visit.

According to Bernd Michael, president of the Joint Association of Advertising Agencies, "people are developing immunity to advertising, against advertising which does not go along with the realities of life". They do not want flam but facts. To sell in the east, therefore, advertisers must subject their products to lengthy consumer testing to prove they live up to their claims.

They must resist the temptation to use slick slogans; the new customers take such things too literally. There is no point in trying to beguile an "Ossi" into buying a razor blade with the macho message: "Gillette. For the best in man." "Ossi" sees this as just plain stupid because a beard is not "in" but "on" a man.

Walesa decides poll date

Warsaw — President Walesa has set October 27 as the date for Poland's first free parliamentary elections since the second world war. His decision starts the campaign procedures. Under the electoral law, 391 parliamentary deputies will be elected in 37 districts. (AP)

Tamil suicide

Colombo — Nadarajah Varathan, aged 32, a Sri Lankan Tamil rebel who was said to be behind the bombing of the defence ministry, swallowed cyanide when police tried to arrest him. (Reuters)

Freedom flight

Delhi — Yair Yitzhaki, an Israeli tourist freed by Kashmiri secessionists, flew here with three colleagues, who were injured in an unsuccessful kidnapping attempt in Kashmir. (AFP)

Deathly heat

Vacaville, California — Three inmates died in their cells at the California Medical Facility, during a heat wave. Their body temperatures reached at least 108F, a coroner said. They were taking psychotropic drugs which raise temperatures. (AP)

Russians look for answers in mother earth

Mary Dejevsky takes a rural ride from Moscow to Belgorod and finds that the lean years are giving way to fat ones in the lush central Russian countryside

OUT in the Russian countryside something is stirring. The signs are incipient and sporadic, but white sickly pale townspeople trudge home after hot in the factory and hot in the fields, the browned country cousins are tending their fields, building new houses and singing as they work.

The 24-hour car journey from Moscow south, undertaken by hundreds of thousands of Muscovites every summer, offers evidence that at least some parts of Russia have started to thrive after many lean years. Travelling through the lush green landscape of Tul and Orel, the land of writers such as Leskov, Turgenev and Tolstoy, the passing of each new hill unveils another village of blue and green wooden houses in a hollow.

It hens wander across the highway. Sleek cows and goats are tethered at the roadside. There are wide rivers, streams and village ponds where flocks of white ducks and sedate grey geese congregate at the water's edge. Portly women in print dresses are at work in the field. Here, the dire predictions about the grain harvest are not borne out. The fields were sown and the crop is flourishing.

Peasant women in white serves sit on upturned

stove. Building is proceeding apace and recent sheet metal roofs shine in the sun. War memorials in every town and village are covered in fading flowers commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the German invasion last month.

Belgorod, like so many central Russian cities caught in the German advance or retreat, was rebuilt after the war. According to Anatoli Grechin, the council chairman, the town had a population of 34,000 before the war, but only 150 were left to hail liberation. Now, with more than 300,000 inhabitants, it is a centre of the black-earth zone and enjoys what is regarded as a model relationship with the surrounding countryside.

The city fathers say that their success stems from the fact that the bulk of the population are only first or second generation town dwellers and understand the need to help out on the farms at sowing and harvest time. Although the fields look good, the combines are being marshalled and the fuel stocks checked, the residents of Belgorod feel the harvest is still not assured. "There's still time for the bureaucrats to ruin it," they said at the council, pointing in the direction of Moscow.

Belgorod's vast market brims with soft fruit and vegetables, which people buy by the plastic bucketful. The state sector has so far avoided rationing, except of sugar, but residence permits must be shown before buying. The residence requirement, so the city's leaders say, was intended to allow flats that workers from Kursk and Kharkov would catch the bus to Belgorod and end its relative plenty.

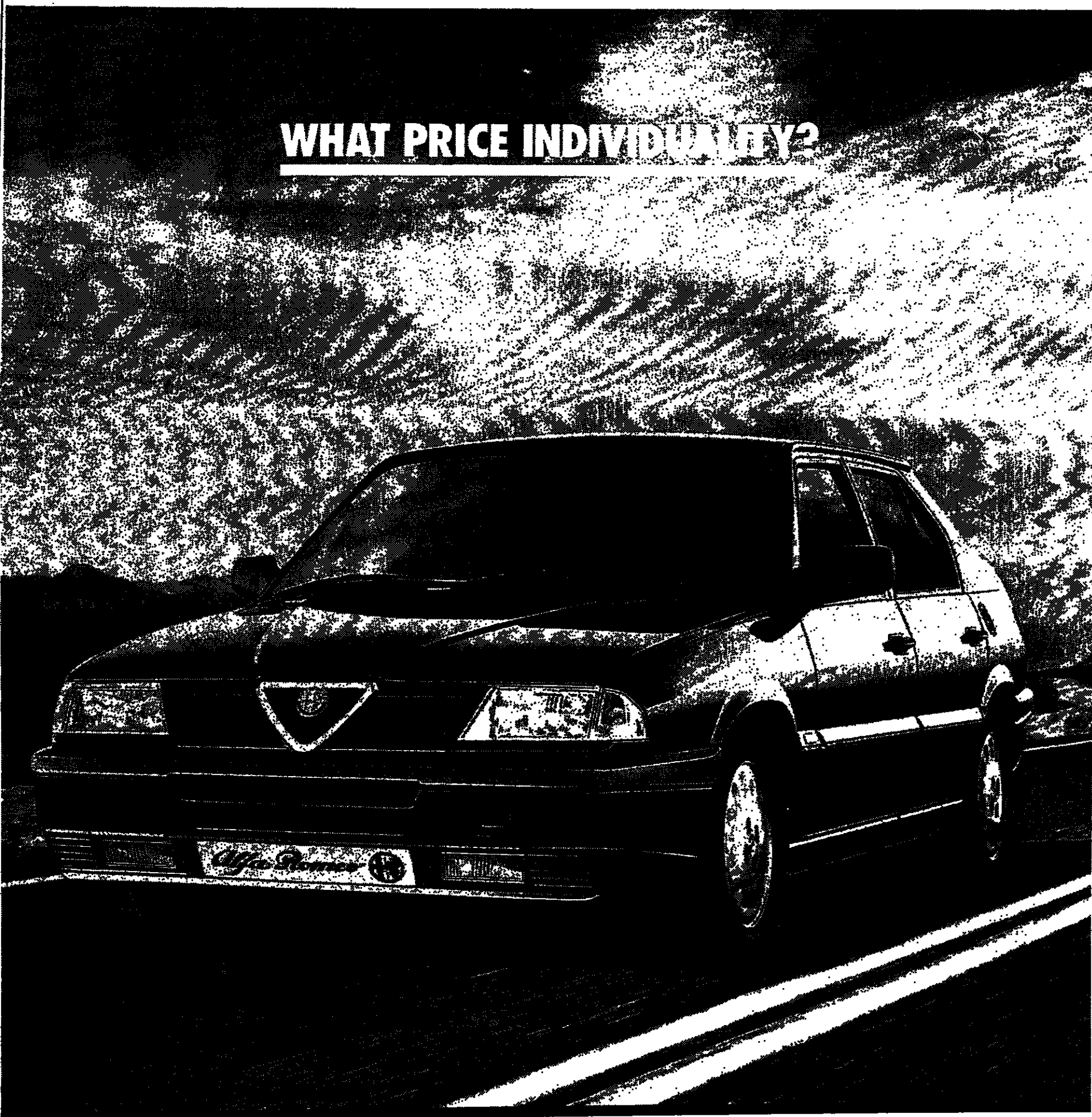
But the rural Russia of Gogol's *Government Inspector* is never far away. Belgorod put on its best face. In the evening, three police officers came to check that I was all right. They also wanted to accompany me on my planned morning walk around town "to make sure nothing happens". The officers did not come with me, but they did clear the market of any gypsies, so depriving the city's population of its only source of cigarettes until the "foreign press" had left town.



buckets at the roadside selling strawberries and potatoes. Wells and pumps with painted wooden surrounds testify to the lack of running water, and you can see women cheerfully balancing yoke and buckets for the long walk home. South of Orel, the small-scale business gives way to the broad plains and valleys of the richest agricultural region in Russia, the black-earth zone.

The wooden houses are gradually replaced by brick structures, often with two

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Kate Muir talks to Lord Tombs, the boss of Rolls-Royce, about top men and large salaries

Monopoly money and morals

In days gone by, when bowler hats still mattered, *The Daily Telegraph* sometimes used to print gentlemen's salaries in brackets after their names. This summer, we have seen a return to assessing the worth of a man by the zeros he commands. Newspapers have been bursting with indignation and details of the wages earned by the chairmen of Britain's largest companies.

We now know, for instance, that Sir Ian MacLaurin of Tesco is worth £1,482,000. Precisely. Which is a lot more than Iain Vallance, the chairman of British Telecom, who weighs in at £536,303. We also know that such men are loaded, stinking rich, rolling in it. It makes us — the little people who cannot avoid eating and phoning — livid.

Particularly niggling for the punters are the whopping percentage wage increases gained by those chairmen of once-public utilities, such as gas, water and electricity. As the government urged wage restraint, Mr PowerGen clocked 163 per cent and Mr British Gas took 66 per cent. It is tough running a monopoly.

With those thoughts in mind, it was only right that a chairman of one such company should have to stand up this week and defend his fellow top dogs, and their (seemingly) outrageous gains in these days of recession and redundancy. The chairman of Rolls-Royce agreed to offer his services. It sounded hopeful. He was posh — Lord Tombs of Brilles. Perhaps he would hang out of the window of his chauffeur-driven Roller smoking a fat cigar, and wave wads of money at the have-lesses lining the street.

But what are his first words? "I voluntarily took a 10 per cent pay cut this year, and our results last year didn't justify any bonus payments." There is no Roller, for this is Rolls-Royce, the aerospace group. The office is spartan, and its occupant claims he is "not greatly wealth-orientated".

Lord Tombs earns £135,000 a

year, a sum not to be sniffed at, but appreciably less than his last year's salary and bonus totalling £180,000. Others further down the company pyramid earn more than their chairman. He must pay close to market rates, or senior managers and directors are taken in what he describes as "dawn raids". The directors have had a 24 per cent anti-headhunting increase, but the chairman thought he should set an example to the 34,000 workforce, who have agreed to a wage freeze, and will suffer 6,000 redundancies.

"We are running on goodwill and loyalty, people whose fathers and grandfathers worked for the company," Lord Tombs says. "It was a way of life, but one day that will run out, and we will have to compete for the best people." He believes the same thing is happening to the former nationalised industries,

which are quickly catching up with market rates of pay. "The newspapers have concentrated on the percentage changes in salary, without referring to the base. There's a big difference between £150,000 and £1.5 million."

He muses that when he was chairman of the Electricity Council, 37 people in the company were paid more than him to stop them joining the private sector.

Then there is the matter of hierarchy. The young manager needs incentives. "The top-level staff should be paid a multiple of the bottom-level, say 15 times what the man on the shop floor is earning, certainly very much more than twice, so that promotion prospects are good."

The 67-year-old chairman has a slightly disapproving look, as he analyses the ways of money-grabbing youth. He puts down his teacup resignedly and disappears deeper into the ugly brown velvet armchair. "I've always been at the bottom end of the salary scale, considering the level of responsibility. I do all the things I like, such as going to the opera. I don't need any more. It's just that some people value



Past and present virtues: Lord Tombs defends only the going rate for the job, what he calls "natural justice"

wealth in itself, and its kudos." Lord Tombs values hard work, himself. In recognition of that, he gained his seat on the crossbenches of the House of Lords two years ago. He comes from a resolutely working class home in Walsall, Staffordshire. His mother ran a corner shop. His father was a gardener. "They were Conservatives, worthy, high-principled people, great believers in the work ethic." Their son Francis left school at 15, and became an apprentice with the General Electric Company in Birmingham, took an economics degree at night school, and rose to become general manager. Then, people were paid fair and square for the jobs they did. Even now, Lord Tombs is prepared only to defend the going rate for the job, what he calls "natural justice". Unspecified persons who might be

earning around £1.5 million, say, do not deserve defence. "And take Sir Ralph Halpern's £2 million leaving payment. I feel unhappy about the ways things like that are handled."

Strangely, it is quite acceptable for tennis and film stars to earn millions of pounds, but when grey businessmen do it, particularly those providing essential commodities, it makes us a little antsy. It would be perfectly acceptable if the chairmen in question provided entertainment, and let us take a prurient interest in their sex lives. But for company chairmen to be paid that much, and not even be good-looking, is hard for the poor consumer to accept.

The animosity can also be put down to the British anti-wealth ethic. If this were America, points

out Lord Tombs, there would be no newspaper articles and no discussion. He tells the story that the well-to-do are wont to tell when justifying their loot — how an American seeing a Rolls-Royce will ask: "How do I get one?", and a Briton will say: "Why should he have one?"

He explains: "It goes back to when we were the richest nation in the world and had created the Great British Empire. Suddenly it became unfashionable for those who had made a great deal on money out of trading, or iron, or railways, to admit to it, and they retired to gentility in the country. Same with governments of both colours. They have spent far too much time working out how to disperse wealth through society, and not nearly enough time on how to make it."

Strange time for House work

Harriet Harman, the Labour MP, says parliamentary hours do not suit many

Change in the hours that the House of Commons sits is long overdue and is one of the most important tasks of the select committee set up to look at the way the Commons works. The night sittings of the Commons make work in the mother of parliaments hard to combine with family life. Silvia Rodgers (*The Times*, June 28) appears unaware that there has been a steady increase in the number of late sittings. Late hours are not the only deterrent, but they contribute to the scarcity of women in Parliament. And the lack of women makes Parliament deeply unrepresentative.

Though women's role is changing, men and women lead different lives. Men still earn more than women and command the top jobs. Women still have primary responsibility for the family. The men in Parliament and in government are setting a political agenda which looks at the world through men's eyes. Women are disenfranchised; their views and concerns cannot be aired properly by a House of Commons in which fewer than one in ten MPs is a woman.

The Commons hours also exile male MPs from their families. It is strange to hear so much debate on "family policy" in a Parliament which requires MPs to delegate their family responsibilities, usually to their wife. Mrs Rodgers is content that her husband, when an MP, could make it to a "rare" birthday tea. But children expect to see more of their mothers than that and there is a growing number of men who do not think it right to have to "choose" between Parliament and family.

The deep determination of some MPs to hang on to the current sitting hours cannot stem from the quality of the late night debates. There is a definite "after dinner" atmosphere in the Commons when the front benches wind up the debates for a vote at 10pm. And few could claim to be at their best at 2am. It is not

a question of stamina; I have done all-night sittings. It is simply downright silly to be speaking to a deserted House of Commons when everyone else in their right mind is in bed. We are not talking about continuous process in the steel industry or work in the health service, which of course need to be on a 24-hour basis; we are talking about debates.

The macho stance of "proof of commitment through number of hours worked" must be challenged. You cannot properly represent your constituents if you become a boss-eyed workaholic who cannot see the wood for the trees.

There are conservatives in all the political parties, who dread change. And no doubt change will alter the atmosphere. But that is a good thing. The Commons should be a place of serious business, not a social club.

Some MPs, whose homes and constituencies are far from Westminster, argue that whatever time the House adjourns they cannot get home. They want a shorter week in Westminster and more time in their constituency.

Some argue that voting must not be before late evening because of MPs who have other jobs. We are told that we need these MPs to keep us in touch with the "real" world. But who can seriously believe that the "real world" is to be found in the robing room at the Old Bailey or the directors' dining rooms in the City? It is absurd to tailor sitting hours to suit those for whom their work as an MP is a second job.

The task of the committee will not be easy. But if it ducks the issue, it will miss a rare opportunity. A gleeful Conservative MP said to me: "You'll be an old woman, Harriet, before you see any change in this House." It remains to be seen whether the men who dominate Parliament are capable of making a decision which signals a preparedness to share power with women.

Table talk at the summit

The G7 leaders meet this month round a special piece of furniture. What happens to it after the conference ends?

WHATEVER the outcome of the Group of Seven economic summit in London's Lancaster House on July 15-17, the sixteenth annual conference will give a boost to contemporary British craftsmanship.

The Brazilian mahogany (from managed forests) table around which the 25 delegates will sit is not one of the government's standard conference tables but a sleek newcomer commissioned from a small workshop in Kew, Surrey. It joins a collection of less elegant tables at Lancaster House and the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, where most of the government's important conferences are held.

The new table was commissioned from

individually-designed conference tables at between £2,000 and £1,500 per metre length.

The two additional tables that will be used for the conference are being borrowed from the Queen Elizabeth II Centre's collection of 594 modular tables which can be put together to seat any number of people. These tables, which are about five years old, are made of ash. They were not considered suitably plush for the plenary session, at which the heads of state, foreign and finance ministers of the seven



Missing: the 1984 summit table

'It's no more expensive than a table for a standard boardroom'

David Field Furniture after the mysterious disappearance of the table used for the 1984 G7 summit, the last held in Britain. "Despite exhaustive enquiries it has not been possible to trace it," says an Economic Summit Unit spokesman of the missing table. The previous economic summit to take place in this country, in 1977, was held at 10 Downing Street, around the cabinet table.

David Field had already done work for the government after winning a design competition for conference furniture instigated by the Crown Suppliers about five years ago. Officials contacted him this year to enquire about hiring a table for the G7 summit.

Not having a large enough table in his workshop, Mr Field offered to make one, quoting "a ball park figure". He heard nothing more, so he telephoned officials in May to invite them to see a £16,000 decorative birch table he was showing at the Interior Design International exhibition. They sent a representative and, having been unable to hire something suitable, commissioned Mr Field to produce the summit table in five weeks.

The table, which seats 30, measures 11.5m x 2.6m (38ft x 8ft), and has rounded ends. It is in seven sections and, broken down, can seat as few as eight. The table's price appears to be a state secret. "It's not terribly expensive, no more expensive than a table for a standard boardroom," says Mr Field, who normally prices his

countries — plus the European Community — meet. The 25th delegate is the EC's president of the Council of Ministers, Mikhail Gorbachev, who has been invited to the summit, will meet the delegate after the plenary session.

THE new table will remain at Lancaster House for future use, including the next G7 conference to be held in Britain in seven years' time. The EC, which joined the group in 1977, does not have any of the summit tables; in the United States Canada, Japan, Italy, France and Germany take it in turn to choose the location, at the table. There have been touches of nationalism: Canada's table bore a maple leaf and, at the last economic summit in Houston, the American table incorporated the Lone Star of Texas.

According to a British government source, the Americans auction the table after each summit, having installed brass plaques bearing the delegates' names. The big campaign which buy them pay considerably more than the table cost, giving the government a profit, preserving a bit of history and allowing contemporary craftsmen another chance to display their talents internationally.

SALLY BROMTON



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Environment, Wildlife & Conservation Exhibition
Olympia London July 6-11
To save on admission, see this week's Sunday Times.

If you've seen the green light, go.

Terence Conran has spent the last seven years meticulously restoring an old farmhouse in Provence.

artistic clutter?

David Hockney's beach retreat is crammed with leopardskin furniture and pub ashtrays.

METROPOLITAN HOME

164-PAGE SUMMER ISSUE

METROPOLITAN HOME

THE INSIDE STORY

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BRIEFING

Beware pirates

NEXT week's Moscow Film Festival will be boycotted by the Motion Picture Association of America, in protest at the extensive piracy of Western films in Russia. When *Gone With the Wind* opened in Moscow last autumn the American distributors discovered that the film had already been playing for weeks in local "video parlours".

At home

THE former Royal Ballet star Alessandra Ferri has married a doctor who practises in Milan, her home town. As a result, she will be spending more time dancing in Italy, although at present she continues to be a member of American Ballet Theatre. One commitment is for her to create the title part in Rudolf Nureyev's new production of Hans Werner Henze's ballet *Onegin* at Florence next February.

Last chance...

BILL Bryden's *Cops*, derived from a tell-all book by Mark Baker, is a gory account of life on the New York streets. Evenings are not often like this at Greenwich Theatre (081-858 7755): the four-letter word-count is stratospheric and the events are anecdotal, not bound into a drama. Yet the excellent performances, led by Tony Haygarth and John Guerin, make the evening live. Ends tomorrow.

ARTS REVIEWS

Theatre and Opera

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GALLERIES: LONDON

At the eye of his visionary storm



The static art of film-maker Peter Greenaway (left), plus Blair Hughes-Stanton's linocuts,

reviewed by John Russell Taylor

Nobody likes a jack-of-all-trades; nobody in Britain anyway. Even a term such as "Renaissance man", so cheerfully bandied about, implies slight mistrust: if he can do so many things, can he possibly be outstanding at any of them, let alone all? Peter Greenaway is the perfect test case.

The world at large knows him as the most famous maverick in contemporary British cinema, and certainly the most successful. He does, after all, contrive to keep on making films, which is more than can be said of many others. In films we tend to take a certain spread of talents for granted: quite often writers, cameramen or designers – or even actors – become successful directors without necessarily deserting their original fields. Peter Greenaway's films, which he writes and directs as well as being completely responsible for how they look, are remarkable but not unique as evidence of versatility.

But Greenaway completed an art training course before plunging fully into the cinema. Even then, it was not a complete change. Design elements have always been important in his films, which make constant allusions to painting, sculpture and architecture. But he has also continued, if only in the margins, to paint and draw.

Judging by his new show at the Watermans Arts Centre,

Brentford, provocatively titled "If Only Film Could Do the Same...", much of his work in the static media is related to concurrent film work. But it clearly also has an autonomous life of its own. Autonomous but not independent, because it is impossible to compartmentalise: the inspiration is the same, even if its expression takes many forms.

The show is a mini-retrospective, going back to the early Seventies for its earliest works (when Greenaway was already 30). Even pieces such as the oil-and-collage *Red Footed Boats*, with its bounding patches of colour and its mysterious placing, apparently random, of tiny numbers, point in some ways towards the films, and even to quite recent films such as *Drowning by Numbers*, with its obsession with games and numbers.

Many pictures relate more directly to the films: in particular there are some attractive images, drawn and photographed, connected with the forthcoming *Prospero's Books*. But the two principal series – the *Waterpapers* hung against the light so that they may be seen directly and through the paper, and the *Windmills* series – though they are further explorations of images which have preoccupied Greenaway in films, could well be examples of something that film, for all its flexibility, cannot do so well. Greenaway has not chosen



Film related: *The Autobiographies of Paphia and Semiramis*, a print created by Peter Greenaway (infographer Eve Rambow) on a computer paintbox

to exhibit this time those drawings, reproduced in the accompanying bilingual book *Papers/Papiers* (Editions Dis Voir, £29.95), that are most clearly preparatory sketches or even detailed storyboards for films such as *The Draughtsman's Contract*. This is perhaps an attempt to insist on the distinctness of the two ways of seeing.

In any case, the two ways may be converging: the semi-photographic images connected with *Prospero's Books* were apparently created on a "computer paintbox". That suggests a further breaking-down of the barriers.

In earlier generations there was certainly interchange be-

tween the cinema and the more traditional arts. Before film-makers had quite got over aping the compositions and the lighting of Old Masters, as a sign of cultural credibility, painters and draughtsmen were already entering into an unwritten contract with the tenth art. Frequently, since the first Futurist revolution, it has seemed that the compositions and points of view adopted by painters, prints and drawings owed much to the new vision of the cine-camera. An interesting case in point is provided by Blair Hughes-Stanton. The publication of an authoritative monograph-cum-catalogue on him (Pri-

vate Libraries Association, £45) has sparked off an eye-opening exhibition at the Gillian Jason Gallery.

I do not know whether Hughes-Stanton (1902-1981) was at any time in his long career an enthusiastic filmmaker, or indeed whether he went to the cinema at all. (The monograph is silent on this point.) But the question is immaterial. His vision in many of the apocalyptic later linocuts must have been influenced in some way by aerial photography, and the new vistas of science fiction made science fact. These are in many respects his most remarkable works.

He seems to have begun making these prints in the late Fifties, beginning with accomplished but relatively conventional images such as *Estuary* (1957). But within three years he had launched out on the transcendental imaginings of *Moonshine*, with its transgressive television screen hovering at the centre of the universe, or the volcanically dynamic *The Wave*.

These prints are like nothing else in British art. Earlier it is easier to see parallels. Sometimes his frank and unpurged interest in the erotic and the precision of his line in depicting male and female nudes brings him within hailing distance of Eric Gill.

At times, in his smaller, more delicate book illustrations for the famous private presses of the interwar years, he speaks the dialect of the tribe of contemporary wood-engravers, and might be mistaken for other masters of the art, including his wife Gertrude Hermes. But he would never be mistaken for anything less than a master.

Peter Greenaway, Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford (081-847 5651), Mon-Sat 11am-8.30pm, Sun 12-6pm, until July 28. Blair Hughes-Stanton, Gillian Jason Gallery, 42 Inverness Street, NW1 (071-267 4835), Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, until July 26.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

SQUINTER'S VIEW: Giovanni Francesco Barbieri, known as Il Guercino, was born 400 years ago, and was for long a favourite in Britain. Paintings from British collections. Guercino in Britain. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321), Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (Wed to 6pm), Sun 2-6pm, until July 31.

RUSSIA AGAIN: A mixed bag of paintings which confirms the strength of Russian art training and imagination.

The Russian Summer Show. Roy Miles Gallery, 29 Bruton Street, W1 (071-495 4747), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until July 20.

HAMMER AND CHISEL. Finalists in the first National Students' Sculpture Competition. The winner, *Njord*, by Harry Everington, is strong and striking. National Students' Sculpture Competition. Paradise, Chichester Cathedral (0243 785718). Daylight hours, until July 16.

DESIGN DEGREES. The Royal College of Arts' Faculty of

Design for Communication's splendid degree show, in which the best pieces, notably the vehicle designs, turn function into pure pleasure. Design for Communication. Royal College of Art, Kensington Court, SW7 (071 584 5020). Closed today, then daily 10am-8pm, until Monday.

BEASTLY BEATTITUDES: The so-called Fauve (wild beast) painters between 1904 and 1908 saw rainbows in every foggy day. A feast of colour elegantly laid out in the new Sackler Galleries. The Fauve Landscape, Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly W1 (071-4394998). Daily 10am to 6pm, until Sep 1.

YOUNG RUSSIA: Evgeniya Chigic Vronskaia is 24, and studying at the Royal College of Art. Individual in her combination of icons and autobiography with abstract shapes. Evgeniya Chigic Vronskaia. Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW8 (071-624 1126). Tues-Sat 11am-6pm, until July 16.

Not all the world's a stage...

As Equity ballots its members on their boycott of South Africa, union president Nigel Davenport talks to Simon Tait



Nigel Davenport: "no bet" on the South Africa ballot

Nigel Davenport? Isn't he the actor who always plays the heroic squire, imposing in tweeds with a riding crop under his arm? His new BBC television role, as a racehorse owner in the series *Trainer*, to be screened in the autumn, certainly fits this mould.

But the affable Davenport has been playing a rather tougher role for years. He has been president of British Actors' Equity Association, the actors' union, for the past five years. This weekend sees the culmination of one of the most ferocious debates conducted in the entertainment world during that period: the morality of British actors working in South Africa.

Equity is holding what should be a crucial ballot, which will decide the union's future policy on the sale of

television programmes to South Africa, and on the question of British actors working in that country. The vote among the union's 47,000 members, which closes today, is on whether to lift the ban on South Africa which Equity imposed more than 20 years ago. Results of the ballot will be announced on Tuesday.

The debate over links with South Africa has been raging in the entertainment world for years. One of the latest to take sides on the issue is Judy Hurd, wife of Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. She wrote a letter to Peter

Plouviez, Equity general secretary, urging the union to lift the ban.

According to a spokeswoman at the Foreign Office, "this was a personal thing Mrs Hurd did" and followed a conversation she had with Marike de Klerk, wife of South African President F.W. de Klerk, during a visit to London. "My official response is no comment," says Davenport. "If you want my personal opinion, it's none of her bloody business."

The South African question was what brought Davenport to the union presidency when

his predecessor, Derek Bond, resigned over the issue in April 1986. "If you asked me as a gaming man what the odds on the South African ballot were, I would have to say 'no bet'; we are asking the membership if they want to unravel something which has been in place for 20 years," says Davenport.

The actor says he has not decided whether to stand again when his term runs out in 1992, but his tenure has come at a critical time for the union: tax changes have taken the self-employed status away from actors, legislation against collective bargaining has undermined Equity's negotiating power and the union is embroiled in negotiations with the makers of television commercials. About 84 per cent of the membership is currently unemployed.

RECORDS: ROCK

Yesterday's Jam, sweet today

The Jam: Greatest Hits (Polydor B49 554-1)
The Rembrandts: The Rembrandts (Atco 7567-91412-2)
Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers: Into the Great Wide Open (MCA MCD 10317)

WHAT a great band The Jam were. Three new wave mods in no mood to hang about, they opened their account in 1977 with a barrage of terse three-minute singles with all the aggressive finesse of a Stefan Edberg serve and volley. Repackaged 14 years later, those early missives – "In the City", "All Around the World" and "The Modern

World" – are a bracing reminder of punk.

Vocalist and songwriter Paul Weller surrendered none of his finny resolve as the scope of the group's ambition broadened and they moved deep into a purple patch with "Going Underground", "Start!" and the deranged "Funeral Pyre", a song of such extreme sentiments and violent momentum that it is a wonder it ever earned a place in the UK Top 5.

Something snapped, and for all the subsequent popularity of "Absolute Beginners" and "Town Called Malice" and

"Beat Surrender", the wry tension on which the best Jam material depended had gone. In its place we got the first stirrings of Weller's born-again soul-boy routine and the eventual embarrassment of The Style Council.

This chronological canter through the Jam's 19 hits underlines the group's old-fashioned facility for compelling singles. Nowadays, "serious" acts only bother to put out singles in order to promote the host album.

A remarkable single called "Just the Way It Is, Baby" by The Rembrandts (Atco 7567-96371-2) has won fulsome praise from some of the smarter radio DJs. Already a Top 20 hit in America, this is an irresistible pop melody of the sort that Squeeze are always trying to write. The

duo from Los Angeles cites Roy Orbison, the Everly Brothers and the Beatles among its influences. Unfortunately, the rest of the album from which "Just the Way It Is, Baby" comes is formula soft-rock of a depressingly bland and featureless nature. Buy the single.

Tom Petty is reunited with The Heartbreakers for *Into the Great Wide Open*, an album which sounds fine on first hearing but which loses its charm after repeated exposure. The panoramic theme is poorly served by the restrained delivery of the musicians and a lightweight production by Jeff Lynne. It sounds more like a weak George Harrison album than Petty's trademark blue-collar rock 'n' roll.

DAVID SINCLAIR

● The Rembrandts (see record review) make their British debut at the Borderline, London WC2 (071-734 2095) on July 10.

● Morrissey, buoyed up by the brisk trade in tickets for his show at Wembley Arena, (081-900 1234) on July 20 will also be at Bristol Academy, London SW8 (071-328 1022) July 21; Brighton Dome (0273 874357) July 22; Empire, Liverpool (051-709 1555) July 24; Dome, Doncaster (0302 370999) July 25; King Georges Hall, Blackburn (0254 582582) July 26; Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow (041-332 6633) July 28.

● The one and only Cheesey Hawkes clocks in at Newcastle City Hall (091 281 2060) October 18; Culchall, Preston (0772 58858) October 19; Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2580) Oct 21; Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow (041-332 3129) Oct 22; Empire, Liverpool (051-709 1555) Oct 25; De Montford Hall, Leicester (0533 544444) Oct 28; Sheffield City Hall (0742 735295) Oct 29; Wolverhampton Civic Hall (0902 312 030) November 1. Further dates in November conclude at Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (081-748 4081) on November 13.

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BOX OFFICE
FIRST CALL

Philip Howard

A literary database will show whether more means verse

There's no money in poetry. On the other hand, there is no poetry in money. Through various accidents of language, history, climate and national temperament, it (poetry, not money) is the supreme British art form. Italians may paint better. Germans compose finer music. The Swiss make more beautiful money. But poetry is what we are good at. But poetry is Wendy Cope. Of course, we do not read it or buy very much, but as a result of us writing the stuff, and rather too many of us send it to *The Times* in the hope of publication. *The Times* never ever publishes poetry, and then only if it is by the Poet Laureate.

However else they fiddle around with the national curriculum, the vain politicians and professionals should make sure that from an early age British children regularly learn by heart the best bits of our national heritage of poetry. Without knowing them, a child grows up handicapped and tone deaf in his or her culture. She or he also misses out on the great pleasures of life, and a lot of fun.

To help those who dredge their muddy memories and can muster only five hundred rhyming words in the valley of death, an astonishing project is about to be announced: to publish the whole of English poetry in one fell swoop. What, all of it?

Anon, Idem, Ibid and Trad. Wrote much that is morally bad: Some ballads, some shanties, All poems of parties, And limericks, too, one must add. Well, it depends what you mean by poetry. One man's poetry is another woman's gobbledygook or stodge. Chadwick-Healey, the academic publishers, are about to announce the publication of the complete works of 1,350 British published poets from 600 to 1900 on CD-ROM and magnetic tape. In the verse of computer, this will put at our finger-tips more than a gigabyte, or 1,024 megabytes, of English verse down the centuries, as our ancestors sucked their quills and tried to find an elusive rhyme for dove, and glove, and shove. It will be the largest and most accessible full-text database yet in the humanities. For many of the poets, it will be the first time they have ever been republished.

Our individual poetry punter will not be able to afford all this, but for universities and libraries it will be a cheap way of securing and storing the contents of nearly 5,000 volumes of the basic rhyme of English verse. And it will enable academics to play marvellous new games of chasing patterns of rhyme and word use down the centuries. With the right Apollonian, they will be able to search the whole of English poetry for such poetic collocations and contiguities of keywords as tranquil night, phantom light, and moon and June. We shall be able to key in to such masterpieces of poetic bathos as "Her smile was silent as the smile on corpses three hours old", and "Spade! with which Wilkinson bathed his lands" (Wordsworth), and "Grave Jonas Kindred, Sybil Kindred's sire, / Was six feet high, and look'd six inches higher" (Crabbe), and "How the warm planet ripens and sublimates / The well-baked beauties of the southern climes" (Dryden), and "This pitious news so much it shocked her" / She quite forgot to send the doctor" (Wordsworth).

Our poetry tipsters along the tightrope of sublimity above absurdity. That is why we find it funny when it falls off. But it is also a kind of deep freeze to preserve language, and stop it going bad, and make us see it from a new angle. It is always the most important and the most enduring way of writing.

Exams are not for ranking schools or pacifying parents, but for motivating pupils, says Janet Daley

Every child needs an aim



Tried and tested: children need the assurance of clear targets

Teachers reject the objective judgments of standardised ranking and claim that tests exist only to serve the purposes of ruthless academic competition.

Playing into their hands, the government justifies testing simply as a service to parents, whose ambitions for their children will be helped by early and frequent diagnosis. John Major reinforced this parent-centred interpretation in his latest remarks by constantly harping on the theme of the parent's right to information about his or her child's progress, even suggesting that this "right" could be incorporated into the

citizens' charter. Thus, he laid himself open to the charge of regarding education as just another consumer-led public service whose personnel are obliged to provide customers with up-to-date bulletins.

And so a government which has set its face so determinedly against the demonological view of examinations hands its enemies a perfect weapon. Now the teaching profession can cast itself as the true protector of children's interests, fighting off an alliance of hardhearted Tory elitists and pushy parents.

What desperately needs to be introduced into this debate is the notion that examinations perform an invaluable service for children themselves, by offering a coherent and comprehensible framework of goals. Nothing has been so destructive of motivation and discipline in schools as the perversely unstructured teaching styles that have prevailed for the past generation. Not only do they undermine any kind of perceptible achievement which might stimulate children to go on and do the next thing, they actually create insecurity.

Nothing makes children more anxious than a vacuum. To refuse to present them with clear-cut measures of achievement and the satisfaction that comes with them is to set them hopelessly adrift. Of course there is a risk of failure and disappointment, but those are less harmful in the long run than being without any idea of what counts as achievement.

Children are not fooled by this deceit. They know that if there is no failure, there can be no success. In America, experiments with magnet schools have shown that almost any set of specific, identifiable goals helps children to define themselves and gives them a sense of purpose. Some of these specially dedicated schools have a scientific and technical emphasis (very like this government's embattled City Technology Colleges); others emphasise the performing arts, still others stress languages and humanities. Surprisingly perhaps, a great many pupils from the technical schools go on to fields other than science, but in whatever area they ultimately choose, they have a higher than average rate of academic success.

The feeling of pointlessness endemic in our system is fatal to children's self-esteem. School, like much of life, needs a focus and some promise of reward if it is to hold the interest for long.

Europe's real Ruritania

Roger Boyes, in Slovenia, watches the creation of a new nation state whose people are still dazed by events

Late-Victorian romances such as Anthony Hope's *Prisoner of Zenda* began a fascination for small mountainous principalities somewhere in central Europe, which Hollywood later eagerly picked up. But despite its castles and mountains and swashbuckling nationalists, Slovenia is not the Duchy of Grand Fenwick, the Ruritanian fantasy of Peter Sellers' film *The Mouse that Roared*. This land of two million people, the size of Wales, has a real war to conduct and future role to find.

There is a Ruritanian feel, however, to the strange *troika* running Slovenia's war with Yugoslavia. The defence minister, Janez Jansa, who wears tailored camouflage, describes himself as a post-punk modernist, and was once jailed for writing an article revealing army secrets. Igor Bavcar, a former hippy and dissident, led the campaign to free him in 1988. Now he is interior minister and wears big black leather boots. The rumpled foreign minister, Dimitri Rupel, is a sociologist, dissident, and novelist. They share vaguely liberal left political views.

But when the war is over, the Slovene *troika* will have to fight for its political existence. The idea of breaking away from Yugoslavia was to enter the modern, non-Balkan world. Yet the most important political axis is between the Christian Democrats — led by the prime minister Lojze Peterle — and the farmers' party. They are militant Catholics who want to ban abortion, introduce Catholic catechism in all schools,

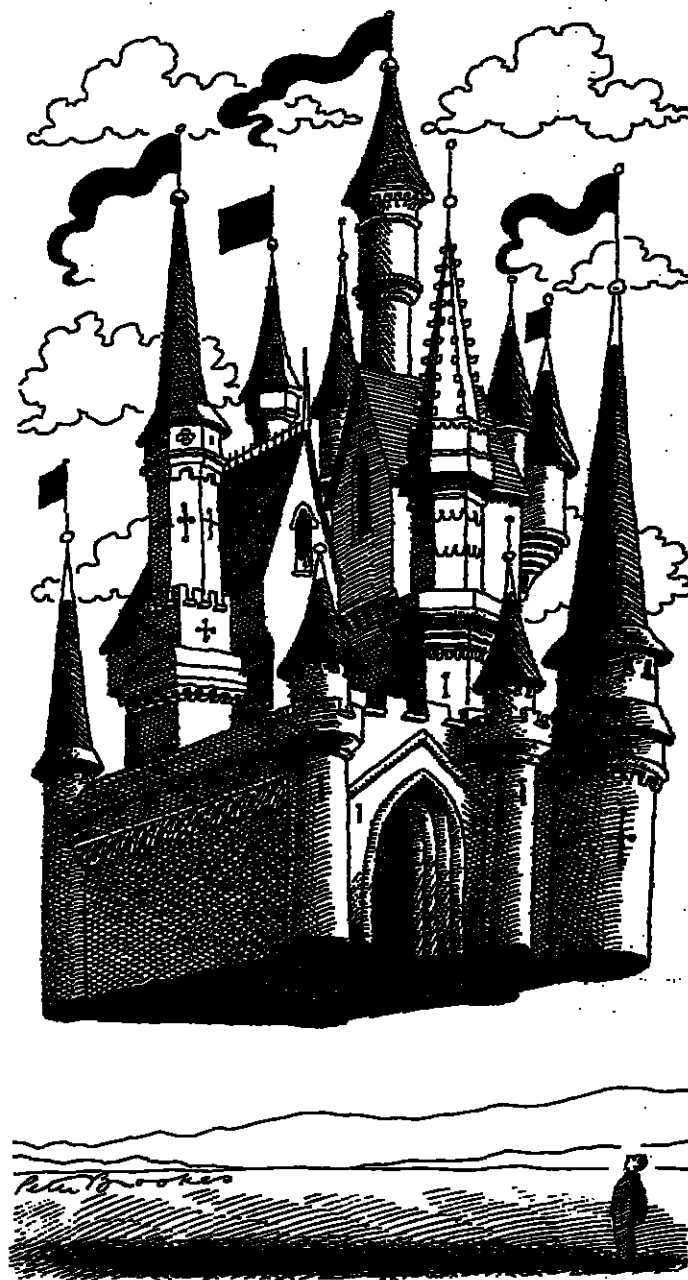
drive the girls' magazines out of the kiosks on Tito Boulevard, and, in Mr Peterle's words, give political life a "moral base". Slovene liberals say that there is a disturbing shift from red (communist) to black (clericalist), and that the trend has been strengthened by the war. Even before the Yugoslav army moved in, the Slovene police were flexing their muscles — to raid the homes of marijuana smokers. In an interview the Archbishop of Ljubljana, Monsignor Alojzij Susterš, tried to dampen suspicions that Slovenia was returning to the pre-war model when the church, linked to the Slovene People's Party, interfered actively in politics. "I can assure you there are no grounds for suggesting that the church wants to seize power through the Christian Democrats," he said.

Even so, Slovene ministers are divided into those who pray and those who do not. The Christian Democrats have set up a joint commission with the Catholic church to work out educational and social policies. High in the green valleys of western Slovenia, the priests have a real grip on the people. "Abortion is the real murder, the real genocide," thundered a village priest near Krško as Yugoslav tanks were rumbling through the lanes and mowing passenger cars. I followed a farmer sticking signs marked "mines" in his field to scare off the Yugoslav invaders. What did he think of the new Catholic politics of independent Slovenia: "It's got to be," he said, "otherwise all the kids will end up on drugs and drink."

Even former communists have to play the clerical game. Slovenia's president, Milan Kucan, a reformed socialist who is now the country's standard bearer of independence, the Pope this year. The aim, apart from lobbying for Vatican support for Slovenia, was to gain a match-point against the devout prime minister who made a pilgrimage to Rome last year. The politics of small newly independent states is often fought out at the level of village councils. President Kucan's advisers do not like the drift towards clericalism, but hope that the march to independence can subtly be converted into a march to modernity.

The odd mixture of tensions became clear last Sunday. Catholic Slovenes flocked to the Franciscan church in the cobbled square of Ljubljana staring with faint but unmistakable disapproval at the teenagers smoking and flirting nearby. The whole scene was watched over by not very alert Slovene troops. Then the air-raid sirens blared, and Catholics and agnostics dashed for the same concrete shelter.

There has been a considerable, if temporary, victory over the Yugoslav army. From distant Belgrade, there are hints that the Slovenes were initially willing to have Yugoslav soldiers stationed on the border posts after independence. But when the troops moved, the Slovene resistance pounced, and declared that they had been invaded. Did the Slovenes lure the Yugoslav army



into battle in a complex political manoeuvre? Slovene officials dismiss the theory. Whatever the truth, it is plain that the Slovene leadership handled the subsequent crisis brilliantly. In five days, it had passed the strictest test of statehood and sovereignty, by repulsing a foreign army. Within a week the West was pushed from a confused commitment to a unified Yugoslavia to

near-recognition of an independent Slovenia. Mr Rupel, cold-shouldered for months, was suddenly on the phone to dozens of Western politicians. "I'm sorry," said his secretary the other day, "he already has the Dutch foreign minister on hold." But the post-war management of Slovenia will not be so smooth. First, it has to secure a guarantee that there will be no further attack

from the Yugoslav army. That means continuing to press for an answer to the question of the hour: who controls the army? It also has to work out the terms of the divorce from Yugoslavia, to manoeuvre from a formal declaration of independence to full secession. And then it must show it is able to survive economically and politically.

The new currency of independent Slovenia has been printed, but before it can be circulated, there must be backing of £200 million. Slovenia needs to change its export strategy. Two-thirds of Slovene production is consumed at home, a quarter goes to the rest of Yugoslavia, and the remainder is exported. If Slovenia loses the Yugoslav market, its already sick economy is doomed. The prime minister, Mr Peterle, is ready to unleash a radical privatisation plan, modelled on that of Poland. This will entail even mass unemployment. These are the problems of peace in a tiny, vulnerable republic in the Julian Alps.

Life ticks over, even if the local butcher and dentist are still in uniform. "We have militarised our society," laments a middle-aged matron, married to a computer executive. "Can you imagine what I got for my birthday this year? A gun!"

After their first independence battle, the Slovenes are uncharacteristically reflective. The war, having brought them together, is now giving way to a tense peace which exaggerates their differences. It is not only politicians who are beginning to argue again, but villagers. Sometimes it is difficult to imagine how such a *Clochemerle* of a city can have triggered Europe's most bloody crisis. In *The Mouse that Roared*, the bankrupt Duchy of Grand Fenwick presciently decided to declare war on the United States, be defeated, and receive Marshall Aid. Observers from the Conference of Security and Co-operation in Europe, arriving to monitor the precarious ceasefire, will look in vain for such a Ruritanian, but nor will they find a classical Balkan powder keg; instead they will find a disciplined, hard-working mountain society baffled and dazed by war.

...and moreover

PETER BARNARD

Thirteen years ago when we moved to our present flat, my wife said phew, that's it, I am not going through that again: they can take me out of here in a box. We have lived on two continents since then, but somebody else owned the walls and the roof so there was no question of calling in sombre men to discuss pine in its infinite shades. All the while we kept the flat and moved back in when we returned to England.

We are a tolerant lot but a couple of years ago we began to notice that other people had homes wherein, if you happened to be dining *en famille*, somebody did not have to stop eating and stand up if another person wanted to open the door of the refrigerator.

News began to filter through from the outer reaches of our circle to the effect that although five people living in a flat with two bedrooms was not an unheard-of phenomenon, you heard about it less in the better part of Bristol than you did in, say, Soweto.

We also thought that the toddler would like a garden and the other two, each of whom is grown up, were enthusiastic about what they began to call "a family home in the country". So, last autumn, we put the flat on the market at what the estate agent described as "a realistic price".

Three months later we reduced it to what the estate agent described as "a more realistic price". Three months after that we accepted an offer which was £10,000 less than the first realis-

tic price and £5,000 less than the second. But I'll say this for it: it was realistic.

We found the ideal four-bedroom cottage in the country. No sooner had we found it than the eldest daughter announced she had been promoted. That is, she was moving to Exeter. We were graduating from insufficient space to swing a fridge door to being able to give the fridge its own quarters.

All seemed clear as day when we first briefed our solicitor, who also happens to be a friend of ours. We sat back to wait. We sat up again very soon afterwards, almost hitting our heads on the fridge door, when the solicitor reported that the Title to the family home in the country could not have been bulkier if we were buying a spare castle off the Windsor. The Title was defective: something to do with rights of access. Add £300 and move back six squares.

The chap who is buying our flat appeared to have no such problems, to the point where we began checking the price of caravans, large tents and other temporary abodes. Television programmes about the homeless took on an urgency previously unknown.

Silly to have worried, really. We should have known that our buyer would ring up to say that the sale of his country cottage had been delayed: the Title was defective. Something to do with rights of access. By this time we were slaves in a chain, but where was Abe Lincoln?

I'll say this though: there is nothing like a defective Title to

get you seasonally adjusted. We had first seen the cottage in January, when we approached it through mud. We put in an offer when it was under three inches of snow, we have been then through the life cycle of the daffodil: bud, bloom, withered stalk. The apples have gone from bare branches to the insides of a pie. There must be people in the village who think we live there but are only home at weekends.

During one false dawn, for the sake of the youngsters, we even collected three tadpoles to put in the pond, the move being "imminent". Take my advice never go on about defective Titles in front of tadpoles, the boredom kills them.

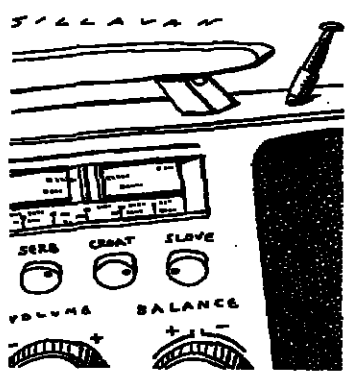
Never mind. I operate on one of the better definitions of optimism: things are bad and they always were bad, but nothing could be worse than this. Last Sunday this challenge was taken up. Two hours after our buyer rang to say that he could move in at the end of the month, the man whose cottage we are buying telephoned. We are by now firm friends, which is just as well. The house he is buying has been taken off the market. The lady who is selling it cannot move into the country cottage she was buying. Country cottage: a clue there. I'll count you in for the chorus: it has a defective Title.

Of course it will all work out in the end. The end of the month, the end of the summer, the end of the year. And once we are in, phew, that's it, we are not going through this again. Are you short of space? Think about a smaller refrigerator.

Language of diplomacy

Friendly competition has broken out in the Yugoslav section of the BBC World Service. With a Slovene and a Serbo-Croatian section — staffed in equal measure by Croats, Serbs and Slovenes — broadcasts in both languages have been increased during the conflict. But there is rivalry for the limited amount of air time and staff are even more conscious than usual of the need for balance.

Maja Samolov, a Croat appointed head of the section only two weeks ago, says: "It has been a baptism by fire and we have had



complaints about bias from both Croats and Slovenes in Yugoslavia and Britain. We cannot win. We have even had a complaint from Sweden."

In the office, however, the rivalry is good-natured. "I don't think we have ever been so united. It is surprising that no tension has spilled over into our work."

Only in one respect do the Slovenes have the upper hand. "They speak Croatian, but I am afraid Croats have difficulty understanding the Slovenes," says Samolov. "We have only an inkling of what they are saying."



Those considered worthy of honorary doctorates by the Royal College of Art are a pretty eclectic lot these days. Receiving their scrolls from the college provost Lord Gower at the Albert Hall today will be Giorgio Armani and Mary Quant, alongside more predictable names such as Sir Norman Foster. Also to be honoured is David Lynch, the first film director to be so feted, "for his consistently original fusion of ironic plot and thrilling imagery".

From the shades

Family and friends of Lawrence Durrell will be united in joy and sadness this weekend at Stratford-on-Avon for the first British tribute to the novelist.

Durrell's death last November was followed by the quietest of funerals. The only relative present was his daughter by his first marriage, Penelope Durrell-Hope. A handful of friends attended, including Françoise Kestman, with whom Durrell shared his last years. By contrast, the gathering on Sunday will include Penelope and Durrell's second wife, Eve Cohen. His zoo-keeping brother, Gerald, has been kept away by illness.

Because Durrell rarely went to church, the family decided against a religious service. Instead, actors will take it in turns to read some of his finest poetry and prose in a

day-long tribute, entitled "Too Far to Hear the Singing".

Peter Baldwin, a friend of Durrell's, who is organising the event, says: "It will be a day of celebration of the man and his work." It will be the first time the family has gathered in public since last month's allegations that Durrell had an incestuous relationship with his daughter Sappho, who committed suicide. Durrell's literary agent, Anthea Moray-Saunders, says: "In a sense this day is divorced from the claims made about Sappho. Regardless of what anyone says, Durrell was a very good writer. Sunday's ceremony is an opportunity to express that."

Nicholas Ridley has taken the first step to retirement from the Commons by selling his Cotswold home for more than £700,000. The *Lancet* of the Grade II listed Queen Anne house are said to have been the inspiration for the croquet green in Alice in Wonderland. But they owe their more recent fame to Ridley's attack on the selfishness of Nimbys ("Not in my backyard") shortly before it was revealed that he had objected to building proposals in his own village.

Green favourites

First the good news. Prince Charles and Michael Heseltine are to be singled out as heroes by the deputy editor of *Country Life*, for their efforts to help to preserve the countryside. Now the bad news. Both will also find themselves named in a list of the countryside's "anti-heroes". The double-edged judgments will appear in *Countryblast*, a forthcoming book by Clive Aslet.

So what are their sins and acts of heroism? The Prince is praised for saving the National Apple Collection at Brogdale in Kent, but a villain for allowing old barns on Duchy of Cornwall estates to be converted into homes. Prince Andrew is also in disgrace for build-

ing "a burger King-style house in the green belt". Heseltine is given a black mark for overhauling the planning system in his earlier stint as environment secretary in 1980, but wins fulsome if mysterious praise "for reviving the nabob spirit at Theford" near his country estate.

U-turn

The controversial dynasty of Mitfords has a new representative in the world of politics. Rupert Mitford, aged 23, has just become the youngest member of the House of Lords as the new Lord Redesdale — on the Liberal Democrat benches. "I suppose it is a sharp break with family tradition, but it is something I have thought about for a long time," he says. "Most of the family has been very supportive", although he admits that does not include his cousin Diana Mosley, widow of Sir Oswald.

He can expect little support from his cousin Lord Denham, the former government chief whip. "I am sure he will tease me terribly. He tried to persuade me to join him on the Tory benches," says Redesdale. In the end the new peer was convinced otherwise by Lord Addington, the 27-year-old rugby-playing Liberal Democrat peer. His powers of persuasion, presumably learnt in his former employment as a nightclub bouncer, proved more than a match, it seems, even for the formidable Denham.

Productions of the Open Air Theatre at Regent's Park are accused of competing with the roar of lions from nearby London Zoo. But a performance of the current production of *Macbeth*, which was competing with a party at the zoo, had to be temporarily suspended, when the main fight scene was interrupted by the wailing tones of John Lennon's *Give Peace a Chance*.



NOT A HAPPY VISIT

So John Major is to be the first Western leader to go to Peking since Tiananmen Square. Is this visit justified, purely to sign an airport deal?

When Sir David Wilson, governor of Hong Kong, announced in 1989 that a large new airport was to be built for the colony, his intention was to boost confidence after the nervousness induced by China's Tiananmen Square massacre. Before long, it was clear that he had instead handed Peking an opportunity both to undermine confidence still further and to exert pressure on the British government over the running of Hong Kong between now and 1997, when the territory reverts to China. Britain was left with two options: either to compromise with Peking over the airport or to scrap the project altogether.

Because private investment is needed to finance the building of the airport, and borrowings will have to run until well after 1997, Peking needed to do no more than raise an eyebrow to scare lenders off completely. If Britain and Hong Kong wanted the airport built, Peking had to guarantee that any borrowings undertaken now by the Hong Kong government would be honoured and redeemed after the handover.

The agreement has been clinched thanks mainly to Britain's threat to ditch the airport should China prove too intransigent. The airport is in China's interest as much as Hong Kong's: it will provide a generous stream of revenue to the new special autonomous region's government after 1997 and will symbolise Hong Kong's continuing importance as a financial centre. In return for agreeing it should be built and for guaranteeing obligations entered into before 1997, Peking has won a right to veto borrowing of over HK\$5 billion (£400 million). It has a commitment from Britain to leave a minimum of HK\$25 billion (£2 billion) in the Hong Kong pot when it leaves. And China gains the diplomatic coup of a

visit from the British prime minister, and unspecified consultation over Hong Kong in the coming months and years.

Was it worth it? The existing airport, built in the 1950s, is not just bursting with the sheer volume of traffic. It was designed for smaller planes and is now becoming dangerous. Hong Kong's business community badly wanted a new one, not just for practical purposes but for its symbolic value too. Had Britain been forced to shelve the plan, Peking would have seen that it could scupper any large infrastructure project between now and 1997. The decision to go ahead was welcomed, not least by the local stock market, which rose by 1½ per cent yesterday on rumours of the impending announcement.

The agreement is, on the whole, more narrowly defined than the Chinese wanted: all but one clause deals with the airport and its financial implications. But the final paragraph sets out a wish "to intensify consultation and co-operation over Hong Kong issues in the approach to 30 June 1997". To this end, the British and Chinese foreign secretaries will meet twice a year "to discuss matters of mutual concern". The Foreign Office claims this happens anyway at the United Nations, but the people of Hong Kong fear that this paragraph may contain a hidden promise to give Peking more power over Hong Kong's affairs at a time when in principle it should have none.

The prime minister's trip to Peking will represent a preference for pragmatism over this principle. He will be the most senior Westerner to have honoured China by his presence since Tiananmen. Because he is going to sign an agreement, he will have to smile and shake hands with the men who ordered the massacre. America and other European countries recognise Britain's special need to keep up relations with Peking. The deal is the best in the circumstances, but this will not be Mr Major's finest hour.

MEDICAL INTERESTS

The British Medical Association's job is to act in the best interests of its 75,000 members, as any good trade union should. But self-interest sounds too much like selfishness. Therefore in its campaign against the government's health service reforms, the BMA claims altruistic concern for the welfare of the nation. So, too, lawyers' professional bodies, protecting members' backs against Lord Mackay's legal reforms, claim they "speak up for justice", and teachers' unions, protecting jobs and pay, "speak up for education".

The BMA was wrong in 1948, when it bitterly opposed the NHS, and is wrong in so implacably opposing modest reform now. The present chairman, Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, has pleaded for a more conciliatory tone towards the present health secretary, William Waldegrave. This has upset the activist majority during this week's annual conference in Scotland. The activists seem to want the BMA to engineer the imminent downfall of the government. They do not want Dr Lee-Potter; they want Dr Arthur Scargill. They want to render the reforms unworkable, and to persuade the public that the unworkability is the government's fault.

For all the claims and counter-claims for the internal market reforms of the NHS, however, most patients will notice little difference. The present campaign by Labour and the BMA against the reforms is designed to persuade people that the reforms cannot be good because the Tories cannot be trusted with the NHS. Slowly improvements in efficiency will trickle down, however, as a gradual shortening of waiting times or marginal improvements in treatment. Over time, the country should get better value for money from its annual NHS budget of £30 billion. That means a healthier NHS.

So wherein lies the BMA's objection? Rather than improve NHS efficiency by operating the discipline of an internal

market, the BMA would have preferred the government simply to pour some £5 billion more into the system as it was. Some of that money would find its way into their pockets, or the creature comforts of surgery or medical common room. Much would have gone on bolstering overmanning.

That cannot be what doctors really want. The tone of their campaign against Mr Waldegrave's predecessor, Kenneth Clarke, suggests a different priority. As with the lawyers' campaign against Lord Mackay, the doctors' campaign against Lord Mackay, the bone of contention is power and control. No politician, implied the BMA, should dictate to the medical profession how best to organise and finance the NHS: doctors know best. Mr Clarke was challenging the medical hegemony over the health service that had been conceded by Aneurin Bevan in 1948 as the price of the BMA's co-operation.

The BMA militants have sought to turn the association into a single-issue political party, bidding for power. Dr Lee-Potter, on the contrary, has taken the sensible course of accepting that Parliament has legislated, but implementation is still negotiable. At the earlier stage of the campaign, the horse-for-courtesy principle threw up as BMA chairman Dr John Marks, not one of nature's conciliators, against Mr Clarke, himself no mean rough-rider. Mr Waldegrave is no less firm-willed, but milder with the whip than Mr Clarke. He is susceptible to coaxing.

Root-and-branch opposition to the reforms — "yah-boeing" in Dr Lee-Potter's phrase — disqualifies the BMA from being heard. Doctors have got to work within the new system that Parliament has ordained. In the self-interest of doctors, if for no other reason, Dr Lee-Potter should be allowed quietly to seek their continuing influence over the evolution of the NHS. Doctors who want to bring down the government should join the Labour party or Liberal Democrats.

TELE-GLASNOST

Television can alter the events it depicts by conveying images instantly to mass audiences: the end of the Berlin Wall showed this spectacularly. But power can go to the heads of even the best broadcasters if they believe that they are making history every time the cameras roll. What television can do well is to illuminate events by exposing the ideas, motives and personalities of the participants to the public gaze. Some truths, especially disturbing ones, are best imparted visually.

Norma Percy's documentary series, *The Second Russian Revolution*, the last episode of which will be shown on BBC 2 tonight, is a case in point. It has contributed to our understanding of Soviet politics under Gorbachev by simply asking almost everybody who mattered to tell his or her story. By grasping their opportunity, before glasnost temporarily went into reverse last winter, the team were able to shine their magic lantern into the Kremlin's corridors. Many of their interview subjects may have lied; all had axes to grind. But at least the viewers can make up their own minds whom to believe.

Andropov's last speech, naming Gorbachev as his heir, is doctored by the politburo in favour of Chernenko. On Chernenko's death, Gorbachev prevents hostile politburo members arriving at the Kremlin in time to vote. Details of Chernobyl are suppressed for days on Ligachev's orders. Yeltsin tells why he resigned, first from the politburo, later from the party. Gorbachev remarks to Pruskiene that he hopes to see her on the international circuit one day, so conceding that Lithuanian independence is inevitable. Yakovlev reveals that Gorbachev took

presidential powers without consulting him. Shevardnadze wonders whether by resigning he let Gorbachev down. Bakatin claims that Gorbachev "didn't know what the tanks had been doing" in Vilnius last January.

Bad television often generates more publicity than good. Programme-makers are often accused of going downmarket — frequently with good reason — and any series which breaks new ground risks being overlooked. Not so this series, which has been well promoted, shown at peak times and highly praised. But still the viewing figures are modest. Either the British viewing public is so starved of serious documentaries that it does not know a good thing when it sees one. Or it may be too surfeited with good programmes to notice the superlative.

Though British curiosity about Russian affairs is hard to arouse, that of the 300 million unseen extras in *The Second Russian Revolution* would be easy, if they had the chance. The series deserves to be shown on Russian television, which badly wants it but is unable to pay in the hard currency demanded by the BBC.

The licence-payer subsidises the BBC to make just this kind of series, and a non-financial quid pro quo, perhaps more valuable than cash, might well be extracted from the Russians. Future programmes of this kind will depend on continuing access to individuals and places. The BBC should settle for what it can get, and let the series be shown. Its impact could be colossal. Thanks to Norma Percy and her team, the BBC has an opportunity to tell the whole Russian people the truth about its own leaders.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Commission snag in pension plans

From the shadow Secretary of State for Social Security

Sir, This week marks the third anniversary of the government's launch of personal pension plans as an alternative to the State earnings-related pension scheme (Serps). New and disturbing evidence is emerging about the level of commission charges paid to insurance brokers and others.

The maximum commission recommended under regulations brought in by Lauto (Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation) up to 1989 was 56 per cent of the first year's contributions. Since the Office of Fair Trading decided that the Lauto scheme should be abandoned, commission of 130 per cent of the Lauto scale has become common — three quarters of the first year's contribution.

Reliable sources in the industry now tell me that commission of 170 per cent of the Lauto scale is being charged in some cases. Effectively, the whole of the first year's contribution is not invested at all.

Over the next few years many of the four million people who have already been tempted into opting out of Serps will find that they have made a serious mistake. Comparisons with an occupational pension scheme of Serps will emphasise just what a rotten deal a personal pension is.

Labour in government will require that agent commissions and management charges imposed when personal pension plans are started should be disclosed. But by then some people will be regretting that they were taken in.

The Tory government launched personal pensions after a careful campaign to discredit Serps and to undermine its attractiveness. It deliberately misled people about the long-term viability of Serps, hamstringing the scheme by reducing from a quarter to a fifth the rate at which the value of contributions builds up, and ended the rule under which the pension was based on the 20 best-earning years of a working life.

The Tories are ideologically ob-

sessed with privatisation. Those who have taken out personal pension plans are their victims.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL MEACHER,
House of Commons,
July 3.

From Mr David Lindsay

Sir, The news, more than 40 years after the Universal Declaration against governments "distinguishing as to sex", that there was soon to be equal treatment in the state pension scheme (report, June 27) is of course welcome.

Less welcome, however, is the proposal to exclude pre-May 17, 1990, service in applying this principle to occupational pensions. May 17, 1990, was simply the date on which the European Court confirmed what most lawyers had known for a long time — indeed the then secretary of state had himself pointed it out in 1986 — namely, that pension was deferred pay and so fell under the "equal pay" article of the Treaty of Rome.

A more obvious start date for sex-equal occupational pension ages is the date from which normal retirement ages had to be equal under the sex discrimination acts, namely November 7, 1987, although even that date still leaves men generally at a disadvantage, as women's equality in retirement age then took immediate effect, whereas men's equality in pension treatment would come only gradually.

This disadvantage could be mitigated in two ways: by early and full equalisation of state pension ages, and by disallowing any "surplus" repayment until some further equalising has been effected, e.g. for those made compulsorily redundant.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LINDSAY (Legal Adviser,
Campaign for Equal State
Pension Ages),
36 Orchard Coombe,
Whitchurch Hill,
Reading, Berkshire,
June 27.

KGB files on Hess

From Mr Oleg Tsarev

Sir, It is surprising to find that James Douglas-Hamilton (letter, June 27) believes that "reality" is founded on hearsay information. Indeed, that he had to resort to transcription of large extracts of his 1981 book "Hess and the unanswered truth", June 15 only demonstrates that the "official" version of the Hess affair is the tip of an iceberg still submerged under the murky waters of British official secrecy.

Surely there is no substitute for contemporary documentation when it comes to determining historical truth? Since Douglas-Hamilton has not had access to the still classified British Hess files, he only raises more questions than he can answer.

What had happened in the five months before the Haushofer letter of September 23, 1940, finally reached the Duke of Hamilton? How could such an important document have been just mislaid by one of the most sophisticated secret services in the world?

Would Haushofer, who in Lord James's words was "writing for his life", have revealed to the "furious" Hitler that he had advised Hess to let him send a letter to the Duke of Hamilton? Would Hess have considered it safe to tell the British of the existence of any correspondence between himself and the Duke, thus

putting his supposed friend in jeopardy?

The KGB archive files report facts about secret British manoeuvring over Hess obtained by Philby, Moravetz and others from high-level sources in London and Berlin. They demonstrate that there were deeper currents beneath Douglas-Hamilton's superficial interpretation.

To dismiss such historic documentation as lies, as *The Times* did in the introduction to his article, is unworthy of a newspaper with such a distinguished reputation as a vehicle for the truth.

Yours truly,
OLEG TSAREV (Deputy Head,
Press Department),
KGB, 1 Lubyanskaya Square,
Moscow,
June 28.

From Mr Robert de Burlet

Sir, While I was the British governor of Spandau prison (from 1971-4) I chatted to Hess quite often, which enraged the Russians. He assured me, more than once, that his flight to Scotland was undertaken entirely on his own initiative and that Hitler was not informed. When I first asked him if Hitler had known in advance, his reply was simply "of course not".

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT DE BURLET,
Southcoth,
83 Hockmore Road,
Chandler's Ford, Hampshire,
June 28.

Confusion in Bucks

From Mr G. H. McWilliam

Sir, Being resident in Chalfont St Peter, I am slightly confused by a letter from the Royal Mail area delivery manager informing me that "as part of ongoing efforts to improve the quality of service" I must include Gerrards Cross as part of my address. Unless I do so, I am told that my mail may be "incorrectly sorted to other destinations, primarily Chalfont St Giles [about four miles away], leading to delays of at least 24 hours".

I do not live in Gerrards Cross, and would prefer not to mislead my correspondents into thinking that I do. Would not Royal Mail's ongoing efforts be better directed at improving standards of literacy among their sorters?

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. H. McWILLIAM,
Lewins Road,
Chalfont St Peter,
Buckinghamshire SL9 8SA.

Media databases

From the Data Protection Registrar

Sir, I read with interest the letter from Caroline Thomson and others (June 24) expressing concern about the European Commission's draft directive on data protection and its effect on journalism.

I entirely agree with your correspondents that "striking a balance between the individual's right of privacy and the freedom of the press is a delicate business". That balance, in so far as data protection is concerned, is set in the UK by the current application of the Data Protection Act 1984.

This applies to the media as it does to other computer users who hold information on individuals on their computers. So far, this does not seem to have caused any problems particular to the media.

The draft directive states in article 19:

The Member States may grant, in respect of the press and the audiovisual media, derogations from the provisions of this Directive in so far as they are necessary to reconcile the right to privacy with the rules governing freedom of information and of the press.

On the face of it, this would allow the UK Parliament to set laws maintaining the current balance after the directive is in force.

It is difficult, therefore, to see the grounds for your correspondents' argument that "it is important that media databases held for any journalistic purposes in the press and broadcasting are exempt from the directive", unless their concerns really stem from the current UK law.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. HOWE,
Data Protection Registrar,
Springfield House, Water Lane,
Wilmsholme, Cheshire,
June 27.

Appeal court role called in question

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, Some of the critics of the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal stoke up public concern by making inaccurate statements about its powers. Mr M. P. Cousins, for example, writing about new evidence, stated (July 1) that "since 1974 the court has itself chosen to descend into the arena of fact, an arena which ought to be the exclusive province of the jury".

The court has done nothing of the kind. Ever since that year it has had to follow a judgment of the House of Lords which decided that the court should stop speculating, as since 1907 it and its predecessor had done, as to what effect the new evidence might have had on the trial jury, and decide for itself whether it made the verdict unsafe or unsatisfactory.

Until the Criminal Appeal Act 1966, re-enacted in 1968, no court had had power to order a new trial; and the present court can only do so in limited circumstances. If the court is of the opinion that the new evidence raises a reasonable doubt it quashes the conviction, and it has done so in a number of cases.

If the court is not sure that the new evidence does raise a doubt but "it appears to the court that (it) is likely to be credible" and the other conditions are satisfied it can order a new trial.

If in every appeal in which new evidence was tendered there had to be an order for a new trial injustice would be done to those appellants whose appeals are at present allowed.

There is a danger amidst all the present criticism of the Court of Appeal that the fact will be overlooked that cases involving new evidence are rare and that in the Guildford and Birmingham cases the new evidence which led to the quashing of the convictions was not before the Court of Appeal when these cases first went there.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village,
Skelton, York.

From Mr Graham Boal

Sir, Mr Cousins suggests that in cases involving fresh evidence the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) "... has itself chosen to descend into the arena of fact, an arena which ought to be the exclusive province of the jury". He also suggests that the approach adopted by the court in this (the Maguire) and other equally disastrous cases is not one the court is

obliged either by statute or by precedent to take.

In fact section 2 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, which governs all such appeals, states in terms that the Court of Appeal shall allow an appeal against conviction if they think (my emphasis) that the conviction should be set aside on the ground that under all the circumstances of the case it is unsafe or unsatisfactory.

The statute thus requires the court to "descend into the arena of fact" once fresh evidence has been admitted.

As to "precedent", all the relevant cases, including the leading authority in the House of Lords, make it clear that the "impact on the jury" test is but one relevant consideration for the court in determining the issue as to whether they (the judges in the Court of Appeal) think that the conviction should be set aside on the ground that it is unsafe or unsatisfactory.

One of the terms of reference for the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice is to re-examine the role of the Court of Appeal in cases in which fresh evidence is adduced. No doubt the royal commission will look again and with care at section 2 of the Criminal Appeal Act, but to criticise the judges for doing what Parliament currently requires is less than fair.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM BOAL (First Senior
Treasury Counsel,
Central Criminal Court,
Queen Elizabeth Building,
Temple, EC4).

From Mr Robert Kee

Sir, It is not, as Mr Sibree (July 1) seems to think, criticism of judges' rulings on fact which "strike at the very root of our rule of law" but those rulings themselves and his own contention that we have no right to criticise them.

Juries are the only judges of fact in British law. Can any reasonable person doubt that if a jury had heard all the new evidence on the Maguire case assembled before Sir John May and put it in the context of the already known improbabilities of the case and our new awareness that the tip-off which sent the police to the Maguire household was false, they would have declared them not guilty?

The Court of Appeal found them, as it were, "not necessarily guilty" — a travesty in every respect of that dignity of law it seeks to uphold.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KEE,
82 Cumberwell Grove, SE5.

methods have improved beyond recognition and unbridled criticism of earlier techniques is both unfair and unjust to those scientists who trained in a totally different era. However, it is important to remember that forensic students are not the medical graduates and have no clinical skills. Forensic clinicians (often police surgeons) and pathologists possess these skills and are aware of the checks and balances which must attach to laboratory, in-vitro testing.

It is rare for forensic medical practitioners to be made aware of the results of the tests they initiate. Judges and magistrates and defence lawyers would be well-advised to seek the opinions of these doctors, especially when human samples become of crucial importance in a criminal trial.

Yours truly,
ROBIN MOFFAT (President,
Section of Clinical Forensic Medicine,
Royal Society of Medicine,
1 Wimpole Street, W1,
June 28).

Justice and science

From Dr Robin Moffat

Sir, You have once again reminded us (leading article, "Justice flawed by science", June 27) that scientific evidence is difficult for judges, counsel and lay juries. Usually outside their expertise, the results are complex, if not incomprehensible, and may go unchallenged by the defence in court.

This need not be the case. The drinking driver, in certain circumstances, may be asked to supply a sample of his or her blood (or urine) and the driver must be offered a sample for private analysis. This procedure could be extended to the accused in other serious criminal prosecutions, e.g. child abuse, murder or rape. Forensic scientists acting for the defence could then undertake their own analysis instead of scrutinising the selected test results disclosed by the government laboratories acting for the Crown.

Since 1976, forensic scientific

Yugoslavia's plight

From the President and the Secretary of International PEN

Sir, As officers of the international writers' organisation whose members are pledged not only to defend freedom of expression and the preservation of cultural identity, but also to do their utmost to dispel race, class and national hatreds, we are particularly appalled by the events of the last few days in Slovenia.

By a strange irony our Writers for Peace committee, whose task is to consider ways in which writers can work for peaceful co-existence in the world, is based in Ljubljana and is now surrounded by barricades.

Our four centres in Yugoslavia — Croatian, Macedonian, Serbian and Slovene — which have always worked amicably together, were due to hold a meeting this week in Bled, in Slovenia.

Their aim was to issue a joint statement on behalf of the writers and intellectuals in those four republics urging their politicians to find a peaceful solution to the problems of the area. Because of the violence which has since erupted the meeting has had to be postponed.

On their behalf we appeal to the authorities in Yugoslavia to substitute peaceful negotiations for the brutal use of force which endangers not only the lives of those involved in the fighting, but also of the civilian population.

Yours faithfully,
GYÖRGY KONRAD
(International President),
ALEXANDRE BLOKH
(International Secretary),
International PEN,
9/10 Charterhouse Buildings,
Goswell Road, EC1,
July 2.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Future of Hong Kong

From Sir Horace Phillips

Sir, Mr Bernard Levin (June 27), to strengthen his prejudices, conveniently overlooks a number of points.

1. The Foreign Office does not decide foreign policy: its job is to provide the government with information, advice and recommendations on points of policy under consideration in London.

Whether these are accepted or rejected, the eventual decision is the responsibility of the politicians alone — not the diplomats.

2. There is no scope for a policy decision on the resumption of Chinese sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997: this is an event dictated inexorably by Britain's 99-year lease of the New Territories in 1898. Hong Kong island and Kowloon (on the mainland opposite), ceded to Britain earlier, depend on that area (and adjoining districts of China) for water; fruit and vegetables, and meat and poultry. Without the New Territories, the island and Kowloon could not subsist.

3. The airport project is not new. The Hong Kong government spent a considerable sum on preliminary studies and groundwork between 1980 and 1983, but then shelved the project because it was going to cost too much. The Chinese can hardly be blamed for saying the same thing now that the government proposes to resurrect it.

Yours faithfully,
HORACE PHILLIPS,
34a Sheridan Road, SW19.

Vanishing chips?

From Mr Claude R. Hart

Sir, Please assure Conrad Voss-Bark (July 3) that help is at hand. I have just passed a juggernaut belonging to a potato merchant from the West Country, along the side of which was written, in 8 letters, "eat more chips".

Yours sincerely,
C. R. HART,
6 Egdean Walk, Sevenoaks, Kent,
July 3.

TELEVISION AND RADIO 23

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Film: Sargebrush Trail (1933, b/w). A season of early John Wayne films that cut with the early B-western. In an archetypal plot Wayne is wrongly accused of murder, escapes from jail and joins an outlaw gang in the hope of finding the real killer – not knowing that the man who has befriended him is the murderer he is looking for. Directed by Armand Schaefer

10.30 Broken Silence: Missing Seasons. The first of four documentary films from Spain exploring animal behaviour, looks at sex and the method of reproduction (1)

11.00 As It Happens: At The Zoo. David Groth finishes his week at the zoo by taking a bath with an elephant (1)

12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron

12.30 Business Daily introduced by Susannah Simons

1.00 Sesame Street. Early learning fun (1)

2.00 Painted Tales: Chagall – The Green Violinist. Original series of animated stories aiming to arouse an interest in art (1)

2.15 Easy Does It. Gentle exercises for the over-fifties with Pat Rogers (1)

2.30 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park. John Francome introduces live coverage of the 2.35, 3.10, 3.45 and 4.15 races

4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers game with Richard Whitley

5.00 I Love Lucy (b/w). Classic American sitcom starring Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz Jr

5.30 Break Free: Myth. Series about the ways the Ancient Greeks lived. This episode looks at the Greek myth of Prometheus and how it still affects the Western imagination (1). (Telexat)

6.00 Kate & Allie. Sitcom about two divorced women sharing a Greenwich Village apartment

6.30 Best of The World. Highlights from the last series presented by Amanda de Cadenet, Terry Christian and Michelle Collins. Featuring Jason Donovan, Charlie Sheen and Iron Maiden from Bruce Dickinson's album *Brave New World* from Dream Warriors and a version of *New York, New York* from Terry Christian

7.00 Channel 4 News. (Telexat) Weather

7.50 First Reaction. John Piger discusses American philosopher Norman Chomsky's latest book, *Determining Democracy*

8.00 Brookside. Realistic Liverpool soap. (Telexat)

8.30 Europe. A series of reports on the revival of Slovak nationalism, which offers parallels with what is happening in Yugoslavia. Franck Dubosc visits Turkey's only overt gay club, Club 14 in Istanbul, and Isabelle Stasi Castrioti reports on an old people's home in Milan devoted entirely to retired opera singers (Telexat)

9.00 Cheers: Uncle Sam Wants You. American sitcom set in Boston's most famous bar, starring Ted Danson. (Telexat)


9.30 Call of the Fish Eagle. The late Sir Peter Scott introduces this documentary about the fish eagle, an African fish-catching bird which is known as 'the sound of Africa'. One of the few places where the birds breed in great numbers is the Okavango swamp in Botswana, one of the richest wildlife areas left in Africa. However the swamp is under threat, with plans to partially drain it and use the badly needed water for industry and irrigation in a parched land (1)

10.00 Roseanne. The blue collar comedy. Roseanne (Roseanne Barr) sends the interior of their new neighbours' house and decides Dan (John Goodman) should redecorate their own eyesore straight away. (Telexat)

10.30 Absolutely. Last programme in the comedy series. Calum returns the video of 48 Hours two days late and Frank Hovis pays a visit to a hospital (1)



Fifties rock 'n' roll: Paty Kenalt and David Bowie (11.05p)



Taking the biscuit: Lionel Jeffries and Denis Quailley (8.00pm)

9.00 Rich Tea & Sympathy: Sex and Smooker.
 A CHOC! A bit-part comedy-drama from David Nobbs, of *A Bit of a Do*, brings together in uneasy alliance Denis Quailley, as the semi-made boss of a northern biscuit factory, and Patricia Hodge as his sharp-tongued personnel manager. Both are middle-aged and unattracted, he widowed, she divorced. Each has truculent grown-up children and a difficult live-in parent. Can romance blossom? Like many first episodes, this one is a slow burner which spends much of its time setting up the situation and introducing the characters. The cast is excellent, with Lionel Jeffries in tremendous form as Quailley's cantankerous, sex-obsessed old dad, but *Rich Tea and Sympathy* is undermined by the writer's weakness for running jokes which are simply not funny enough. It could do with some of the wild, manic quality of Nobbs's most famous creation, *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*. (Oracle)

9.00 News at Ten. (Oracle) Weather 10.35 LWT News and weather followed by *The Day*

9.40 Crime Monthly presented by Paul Ross. Includes an appeal for information about the murder of Penny Bell, whose body was found in her car parked outside swimming baths in Hillingdon.

10. The Game. Danny Baker presents a look at soccer at grass roots level — from the East London Sunday league. Tonight's featured game is between mid-table Coborn and bottom placed Cock Hotel, who have yet to win a game

10.10am Young Riders. Adventures of six Pony Express riders in 1960s Dakota

10.50 Rescue 911. A new series from America featuring true stories of heroism

10.55 CinemaAttractions presented by Charlie Tuna

11.35 Night Beat. Rock music videos

11.55 Soap. Sometimes hilarious American comedy series (r)

12.05 Beach Volleyball from New Orleans

12.55 Superboy. Adventures of the young Superman (r)

20 Spectacular Sportsbloopers & **Fab Fools**

ational Athletics 1.1
Tour 3.00 Golf Tour

U.S. SPORTS

• **U.S. Astral satellite.**
12.00m Wimbledon 1.00m Red Line 12.00m
Australian Rugby 2.00m Australian
Ice Football 4.00m Commonwealth Basketball 6.00m
Rugby 7.00m Tennis 8.00m Wrestling
10.00m Ten 10.00m Track 12.00m
Emblemation 2.00m Baseball

JUROSPORT

• **Via the Astra satellite.**
12.00m Wimbledon 1.00m Australian Satellite
Football 1.00m 20 Years Old Film 4.00m
Basketball 5.00m Motorsports World Championship
6.00m Rugby 7.00m Tennis 8.00m Wrestling
10.00m Ten 10.00m Track 12.00m
Emblemation 2.00m Baseball

GREENSPORT

• **Via the Astra satellite.**
12.00m Wimbledon 1.00m Australian Satellite
Football 1.00m 20 Years Old Film 4.00m
Basketball 5.00m Motorsports World Championship
6.00m Rugby 7.00m Tennis 8.00m Wrestling
10.00m Ten 10.00m Track 12.00m
Emblemation 2.00m Baseball

MTV

• **Via the Astra satellite.**
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BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

The two men called on Britain to throw its weight behind their proposed "Grand Bargain" to transform the

The Chancellor said that throughout Eastern Europe economic transformation still lagged far behind political reform. The best help the West could give was to dismantle its trade barriers to the East. In particular, the European Com-

Earlier, Mr Yavlinsky and Professor Allison told Mr Lamont that unless the West committed itself to radical reform in the Soviet Union, the Soviet economy would

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

our sources, there has been a shift away from the extremist left in some wards in the Broadgreen constituency party, and these might be encouraged to initiate action against him. Mr Fields has already been reselected but the party could, under Labour rules, apply to national headquarters for the candidacy to be reopened. This occurred in

paigning efforts of MPs and others, will go to the executive, and could contain criticism of Mr Fields. The dilemma for the leadership would be finding evidence against Mr Fields that legally justified either his expulsion, or deselection if the action was taken nationally. It would be easier to act on a local complaint.

BY DAVID YOUNG

Most of the country will have more fine weather today, but thundery showers are possible in some areas, and coastal districts will start with a misty morning. The outlook for Saturday and Sunday is for thundery rain over the south-west moving north and east, to be followed by showers.

A 13-year-old girl collapsed with suspected heat stroke as temperatures rose. She was taken to hospital near her school in Milton Keynes.

Wimbledon centre court sweltered in a temperature of 93°F. The St John Ambulance Brigade, which on Wednesday disclosed the dangers of "thermos scald" — where people spill hot tea and coffee on themselves — yesterday warned fans to adapt to the changed conditions. The Brigade advised spectators to drink lots of fluid and eat

Drive to

Continued from page 1

which retains the dated charm and much of the engineering devised by BMC in the 1950s. In fact, some components should be available from BMC's parts bin, he says.

At £5,495, the Ambassador will rival cars from other small manufacturers. But with its descendant of the old BMC B-

Continued from page 1

which retains the dated charm and much of the engineering devised by BMC in the 1950s. In fact, some components should be available from BMC's parts bin, he says.

At £5,495, the Ambassador will rival cars from other small manufacturers. But with its descendant of the old BMC B-

series 1500cc engine, it will be strong on character and low on technology, unlike the car planned by Mr Hayek and VW. The track records of Mr Hayek, who has put 80 million watches on wrists, and VW which made the Beetle, mean that the plastic car could be on the roads within four years.

as high as 200,000 a year of the little, environmentally friendly cars with just enough space, as Mr Hayek puts it, for "two adults and two crates of beer". The hybrid engine, which uses electric power in town and a small diesel engine on long runs, recharging the battery at the same time, is already on test in Switzerland.

A 25x25 crossword puzzle grid. The grid is filled with black squares, and the numbers 1 through 27 are placed in the starting squares of the words. The grid is as follows:

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8
9							10	
						11		
		12						
13		14						
15				16			17	
18				19				
20					21			
24				25				
26				27				

1 Blow hard to get tail cleaner (5-5).	25 It requires signal strength or weakness, we hear (10).
6 Sage little boy (4).	26 Drug meat-dish (4).
9 After damage, article is offered cheaply (4-6).	27 Jumbo perhaps took this escape route (6,4).
10 Eastern philosophy discovered by old Greek thinker (4).	
12 Radioactive ruins - no admissions (12).	DOWN
15 Fault admitted by assistants, going back to stock up (9).	1 William Archer's report (4).
17 Various large initials cut into castles' decoration (5).	2 Head away from sound of French river (4).
18 Girl returns from Sahara, sunburned (5).	3 Show mercy and help along (4,4,4).
19 One's seen in better make up (9).	4 Cheerful model train (5).
20 Embarrassed to apply beauty aid (3,2,4).	5 Cooks joint in vessel (9).
	7 May such a device have a twisted centre coil? (10).
	8 Fine dread, capital (5-5).

[illegible]

- 25 It requires signal strength or weakness, we hear (10).
- 26 Drop meat-dish (4).
- 27 Jumbo perhaps took this escape route (6,4).

DOWN

- 1 William Archer's report (4).
- 2 Head away from sound of French river (4).
- 3 Show mercy and help along (4,4,4).
- 4 Cheerful model train (5).
- 5 Cooks joint in vessel (9).
- 7 May such a device have a twisted centre coil? (10).
- 8 Fine, dandy, capital! (5-5).
- 11 Cricket follower? (12).
- 13 Peevish individual to foil plot (5-5).
- 14 Dejected, being unable to get a drink? (10).
- 16 Limerick's neat, maybe, but it doesn't make sense (5,4).
- 21 Would almost tight (5).
- 22 Were there canting priests at this cathedral bell-tower? (4).
- 23 Lipping girl is not to be believed (4).

Concise crossword, page 21

By Philip Howard

ACCLOY
a. To sate or disgust
b. In heraldry, diamond-shaped
c. To prick with a horseshoe nail

FANION
a. A small flag
b. A do-nothing
c. A supercharged ionic particle

URITE
a. Long green crystals
b. An abdominal segment
c. A lost tribe of Israel

CURASSOW
a. A South American turkey
b. An orange figeater
c. A foster-mother sow

Answers on page 22

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<p>London & SE</p>	
C London (within N & S Circs)	731
C London road M4/M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-A4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
<p>National</p>	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Yorkshire	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
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[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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...enter Waverley & Lough	703
...enter Cornwall	704
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...enter Norfolk, Cambridgeshire	708
...enter Hampshire & Dorset	709
...enter Herefordshire & Worcestershire	710
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Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 6pm, 28C (79F); min 6pm to 6am, 16C (61F). Wind: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 11.2 hr.

London 9.20 pm to 4.51 am
 Bristol 9.20 pm to 5.01 am
 Edinburgh 6.50 am to 4.26 am
 Manchester 9.35 pm to 4.45 am
 Plymouth 9.20 pm to 5.20 am

	Sun sets: 4.50 am	Sun sets: 9.20 pm
Moon sets: 5.08 pm <td>Moon rises: 12.14 am <td></td> </td>	Moon rises: 12.14 am <td></td>	

Last quarter 3.50 am

	AM	HT	PM	HT
TODAY				
London Bridge	7.43	8.2	7.45	8.2
Aberdeen	7.14	3.7	8.08	3.4
Abermouth	12.43	1.0	1.03	10.7
Belfast	4.58	3.3	5.53	3.0
Cardiff	12.29	10.3	12.48	10.0
Dewonport	11.44	4.8		
Dover	4.50	5.6		
Palmouth	11.14	4.4	11.34	5.8

Kings Lynn 12.14 5.2 12.17 5.6
Leth 8.37 4.8 9.10 4.8

This is more

Worm front Cold front
Coastal front

20W

Inter-mechanics super

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[illegible]

Units	9.51	4.7	10.41	4.4
W/Bar-on-Pas	5.42	3.7	5.51	3.7
W-2 2800m				

by Map Office

FRIDAY JULY 5 1991

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-31
- MOTORING 33
- BAR RESULTS 35
- LAW 28
- SPORT 36-40

THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY JULY 5 1991

25
Business Editor
John Bell

Cellnet's wrong number

THE stock market was caught off guard by a reduced profit contribution from Securicor's 40 per cent shareholding in Cellnet. The shares were marked down 53p to 660p after interim pre-tax profits came in at £13.5 million, against £30.9 million.

Roger Wiggs, Securicor's chief executive, said Cellnet's contribution to group results in the six months to end-March was substantially below expectations, and that it had been compounded by £7 million of bad debts.

He still maintains Cellnet will "come right" once the recession in Britain has run its course, and that despite a first-half profits setback, second-half results will show an improvement.

Tempos, page 27

WEEKEND MONEY TOMORROW

PROFILE

**Warlike
mines
and
hostile
bids failed
to put an
end to Sir
Derrick
Holden.**

Brown. Yesterday he stood down as chairman of Allied-Lyons. He tells Gillian Bowditch how he has learned to survive

SUBSIDENCE COSTS

Insurance companies could soon charge different premiums for buildings depending on an area's subsidence record, reports Sara McConnell

LOST DEPOSITS

Millions of pounds lie dormant in forgotten building society and bank accounts, Lindsay Cook investigates

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6043 (-0.0012)
German mark 2.9430 (+0.0033)
Exchange index 89.5 (same)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 Share 1904.8 (+9.9)
FT-SE 100 2470.4 (+22.2)
New York Dow Jones Closed
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 23135.61 (-237.86)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Whitbread 'A' 463p (+9p)
Abbey National 228p (+3p)
Barclays 852p (+12p)
G Wiggins 183p (+10p)
Socobys 800p (+12p)
ADT 625p (+12p)
Unilever 764p (+12p)
Flogas 195p (+10p)
Glymed 215p (+10p)
Hawker Siddeley 537p (+13p)
Wellcome 852p (+13p)
Smithkline Beech 791p (+22p)

FALLS:
Securicor 'A' 438p (-6p)
Security Services 353p (-5p)
Luscas 128p (-9p)
Reiters 757p (-10p)
A Cohen 485p (-10p)
Brown & Tawse 172p (-10p)
SW 178p (-10p)
Dorby 178p (-9p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 11 1/2%
3-month interbank 11 1/2-1 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2-10 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.56-5.58%
30-year bonds 9 5/8-9 7/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1.0043
£ \$1.0022
£ DM2.9430
£ Sfr1.5800
£ FF6.2015
£ Yen139.55
£ Index 89.5
ECU 1.008109
SDR 1.014631
ECU 1.014631
SDR 1.014631

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$369.40 pm \$369.25
close \$369.10-369.00 (\$229.90-230.40)
New York: Comex \$371.35-371.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$18.55 bbl (\$18.45)
Denotes Wednesday's close

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.5 May (1987-100)
***** RK

Baker to receive £240,000 this year

Power chief's pay soars another 78%

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOHN BAKER, National Power's chief executive whose 59 per cent pay rise was criticised by John Major last week, is now being paid £240,000, 78 per cent more than the £135,000 for which he was attacked.

Disclosure of Mr Baker's new salary, which is a cumulative increase of 182 per cent on his pre-privatisation pay, will restart the political furor that greeted the announcement only last week of his increase for last year. His final salary for this year is likely to be even higher once performance pay, which does not form part of the £240,000, is taken into account.

Sir Trevor Holdsworth, the chairman of National Power, will disclose Mr Baker's current salary in a newsletter to the company's 14,500 staff today. Last week, unions representing National Power and other electricity companies were set to demand pay increases of 8.9 per cent.

Condemnation of Mr Baker's rise followed National Power's announcement of £479 million pre-tax profits, compared with £465 million forecast in the privatisation prospectus. At the same time,

National Power disclosed that Mr Baker's pay and performance package rose from £85,000 to £135,000.

Since then, Mr Baker's salary package has gone up £105,000 to £240,000. Although this figure does not have to be disclosed until the company publishes its annual report this time next year, National Power has taken the unusual step of making it known now. Mr Baker, who spoke yesterday to a conference of electricity users highly critical of some power price rises, has said of his pay: "I don't believe in hiding things." In the message to staff, Sir Trevor said Mr Baker had been "unfairly attacked". He added: "I also believe that he more than earns his money; he is well worth what we pay him."

Mr Baker's pay from April does not include any performance element, unlike the £135,000 to March.

His pay and that of the other directors of the company, whose salaries have also risen, was set by the company's remuneration committee after surveys of comparable pay were carried out by Towers Perrin, a management consultant. The committee comprises all the company's non-

executive directors, apart from Sir Trevor.

Disclosure of Mr Baker's real constant salary helps to explain what seemed to be a disparity with the pay of Ed Wallis, chief executive of PowerGen, the other privatised electricity generating company, which was announced last week as about £200,000, a 163 per cent rise from its pre-privatisation £76,000.

Statutory regulators for electricity, gas and water have been receiving large numbers of complaints about pay rises awarded to the heads of the privatised utility companies.

Mr Baker's second rise follows big rises for a number of utility managers. Robert Evans, chairman of British Gas, was criticised after accepting a 66 per cent pay rise, which took his salary to £370,083, and Iain Vallance, British Telecom chairman, saw a 43 per cent increase in his salary to £536,303, though he handed a £150,000 bonus to charity.

Other big increases have gone to water company chairmen, as well as to Mick Newmarch, at the Prudential, who picked up a 43 per cent rise to £544,000, despite the insurance company's profits falling by more than a third, and to Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, who accepted a performance pay rise of 329 per cent to £1.48 million.

□ National Power is to apply to the High Court for leave for a judicial review of actions taken by James McKinnon, director general of the Office of Gas Supply, over the Ofgas decision to conclude gas supply contracts with only two companies when others, including National Power, were negotiating deals on similar terms. National Power's move is likely to take its first High Court steps next week.

Leaders 'deserve star salaries'

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

THE Institute of Directors has dismissed criticism of executive pay rises as a "blizzard of greed and envy".

The speech yesterday by Peter Morgan, the IOD's director general, came at an Institute of Economic Affairs conference on morality and wealth creation.

He said captains of industry were as entitled to the same sort of pay as "stars" in any other profession.

Mr Morgan said people who reached the top should be seen as role models, not objects of envy and political opportunism.

He added: "Successful executives are a rare breed and so much depends on their performance."

"It is only by anticipating and reacting to market forces that executives convert the challenge of survival into the opportunity to prosper."

"Success at this game is what makes executives worth

their compensation, and the game is played in the boardroom, nowhere else."

Mr Morgan added: "For electricity chief executives taking new jobs in the private sector, the fact that this is a new appointment to a new job is conveniently ignored."

He said, however, that members of companies' compensation committees, which decide directors' pay, should be careful: "When times are hard, jobs are being lost, prices are going up, suppliers are being squeezed and dividends are frozen, executive compensation should not be out of sync with sentiment."

Meanwhile, Sir Robert Scholey, chairman of British Steel, confirmed yesterday that he took a pay cut in 1990. Sir Robert's annual salary fell from £308,451 to £288,318, and the total pay of all British Steel directors fell from £1.74 million to £1.56 million.



Baker: pay revealed early

Spalvins quits Markheath

By MATTHEW BOND

JOHN Spalvins, the Australian businessman, has resigned as chairman of Markheath Securities, the property company he once appeared to be grooming as a British takeover vehicle for his Adelaide Steamship group.

Over a four-year period, Adsteam built up a 61 per cent stake in Markheath and entered into a number of joint ventures with the British company run by Paul Bobroff, its chief executive.

Mr Spalvins' exit from Markheath coincides with his final departure today from

Adsteam, the Australian conglomerate he built up and ran until the company announced interim losses of Aus\$1.2 billion (£571 million) - the second biggest loss in Australian corporate history - earlier this year.

Markheath's new non-executive chairman is Michael Rendle, a former managing director of BP and currently deputy chairman of Tace, the environmental services group facing three takeover bids.

The boardroom reshuffle coincided with Markheath's results for the year to end-

March, which revealed a pre-tax loss of £4.1 million, compared with an £11.8 million profit the year before. The loss stems from provisions on Markheath's 23 per cent stake in Frogmore Estates, which was cut to 13 per cent during the year. The disposal leaves Markheath with Camford's property assets, including a 20-acre development site in Stevenage.

The final dividend has been cut from 4p to 2p, making a total of 4p (6p).

Tempos, page 27



Allied in business: Tony Hales, chief executive (left), and Michael Jackman, the new chairman, at yesterday's meeting

The Blue Arrow trial Boardman denies he was misled about colleagues

THE former chairman of National Westminster Bank yesterday defended the group's report to the government over the Blue Arrow affair as "admirable and fair" and denied being deceived over colleagues' involvement.

Lord Boardman, chairman from 1983 to 1989, told an Old Bailey jury he was sure a report by Sir Philip Wilkinson, deputy chairman, gave a full account of Blue Arrow's record £837 million cash call and its aftermath in 1987.

A subsidiary, County NatWest, ran the employment agency's rights issue but was left with a £157 million stake in Blue Arrow shares, 13.5 per cent of the enlarged capital. The prosecution alleges City advisers secretly bought into the issue to bail out the cash call when it failed.

Lord Boardman described an internal investigation by bank inspectors as presenting a "lamentable picture". As a

result he demanded to know how the deal was sanctioned and NatWest's knowledge of moves after the issue. But he wanted Sir Philip's report to the trade department to tell the whole story.

Alun Jones, QC, defending Stephen Clark, a County director, said the report to the department made no mention of the part played by certain NatWest chiefs. He said: "If you thought it was an admirable and fair report, you had been deceived by the top management of your own bank."

Lord Boardman said he did not feel that NatWest's agreeing to cover County's exposure was relevant to the issue, and that giving the deal the go-ahead had been a commercial decision. He denied that senior colleagues were told at the close of the cash call that County's stake was divided into three parcels to avoid disclosure, only that they and he knew the merchant bank

was left with a large holding. Asked if he trusted his colleagues, Lord Boardman replied: "I did and do."

Earlier, Lord Boardman said that after the issue deadline he was informed the result was "a disappointment", but it was not until two months after the cash call that he learnt of County's arrangements to hold shares, avoiding disclosure.

Parcels were held within County, its market-makers under an exemption, and by Union Bank of Switzerland, covered by an indemnity. He was assured the plans were covered by legal advice and that the County holdings were "in accordance with good market practice".

County, its immediate parent, NatWest Investment Bank, UBS Phillips & Drew Securities and seven individuals deny conspiring to dishonestly mislead the market. The trial continues today.

Investors angry over Allied loss

By NEIL BENNETT

SIR Derrick Holden-Brown, chairman of Allied-Lyons, came under repeated fire at the group's annual meeting from shareholders demanding details of how the group lost £147 million on foreign currency trading.

Sir Derrick, who is retiring a year early due to the loss, said the emergency developed quickly during the Gulf war. But he admitted Allied had held a meeting with the Bank of England about its currency trading last summer, and that one dealer breached his trading authority last September.

He said: "Even at the year-end, the reported position showed no cause for concern."

Sir Derrick said he was confident that nothing comparable would happen again. He had discussed the losses with institutional investors, and they were satisfied with the action taken.

Sir Derrick was applauded by shareholders for his nine years as chairman, and his decision to leave.

Hydro buys power from France


By MARTIN WALLER

Scottish Hydro-Electric, one of two power companies privatised last month, is buying electricity generated in France to sell in England and Wales because of insufficient capacity north of the border to supply all its contracted customers south of it.

John Gray, finance director, said the company had not lost money on the deal.

The Scottish-French alliance was unveiled when Scottish Hydro published its figures for the year to end-March, showing pre-tax profits of £60.3 million, or £95.2 million on a pro forma basis, assuming the government-imposed capital structure had been in place all year.

Meanwhile, Northern Electric pre-tax profits also beat forecasts, at £89.2 million. An 11.38p dividend, in line with the prospectus, will be paid.



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Comment, page 27
Stock market, page 31

New car sales stall at 21-year low

By KEVIN EASON
AND COLIN CAMPBELL

NEW car registrations last month fell by 31.18 per cent to the worst June performance for 21 years.

The day after Ford cut the prices of its cars by up to £2,000 to try to stave off the worst of the recession, figures showed that June was the 20th successive month in which sales have fallen.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said that sales were down to 98,204, taking the half-year total to 801,684, 24.8 per cent lower than the figure for the first six months of 1990.

One of the industry's main suppliers, Lucas Industries, gave a warning yesterday that current year profits will be sharply down on last year's levels.

Lucas said profits in the second half of the current financial year, which ends at the end of this month, may be "about half" the £55.3 million pre-tax earned in

the six months ended January 31. Lucas shares fell 8p to 128p.

Car company executives were estimating that lost sales of more than 264,000 cars so far this year have cost the industry more than £2.5 billion.

Sales this year have gone from registrations in January down 20.77 per cent, to February 25.73 per cent, March 19.11 per cent, April 24.2 per cent, and May 30.9 per cent.

Ford estimates that sales this year will drop to 1.55 million, 450,000 fewer than last year and a third lower than the record 2.3 million achieved in 1989.

That is why Britain's biggest car company told its 1,000 dealers to cut showroom prices to try to encourage reluctant customers and bolster its sales. But Ford also assured its dealers that it would bear the cost of the three-month promotion. Although the company had cars in the top three places in the June

sales chart, sales are down by more than 72,500 cars in the first half of the year.

Vauxhall last night joined the car sales war by offering up to £1,500 cash to buyers of its Nova and Astra range. The company has seen sales in the first half cut from 176,945 to 130,074.

Rover is unlikely to cut prices, mainly because its share of the market has increased by 1 percentage point to 15.1 per cent even though sales have fallen back to 121,072, a reduction of 29,287 cars.

The June top ten cars were: 1. Ford Escort (8,175); 2. Ford Sierra (7,848); 3. Ford Fiesta (6,593); 4. Vauxhall Cavalier (6,387); 5. Vauxhall Astra (3,832); 6. Rover 200 (3,702); 7. Rover Metro (3,451); 8. Peugeot 205 (2,915); 9. Peugeot 405 (2,471); 10. Vauxhall Nova (2,398).

VW lifts interim profits to DM433m

VOLKSWAGEN, the German car group, achieved a modest increase in interim profits, from DM428 million to DM433 million, in spite of a 13 per cent rise in sales to DM39 billion.

Carl Hahn, chairman of the managing board, said that the company had to cope with "large burdens" from some divisions. The company has pursued an aggressive expansion policy, including buying a stake in the Skoda car company, to which VW has pledged DM10 billion of investments during this decade.

BP considers development

BP is considering the development of a cluster of oilfields in the Diapir province of the North Sea after the discovery of further reserves of up to 130 million barrels of oil and gas condensate.

BP estimates recoverable reserves in the cluster of 660 million barrels of oil-equivalent, split equally between oil and gas, and says there is further potential in the region.

Umeco warning

Umeco, the engineering business, issued a warning that delays in aerospace programmes and the postponement of orders will have a major impact on first-half profits. Pre-tax profits fell from £773,000 to £701,000 in the year to end-March. Earnings are 9p a share (9.9p), and the final dividend stays at 2.24p, making 3.895p (3.815p).

Sperati drops

CA Sperati, the button distributor, returned pre-tax profits down from £30,811 to £20,658 for the six months to end-April. Earnings were 18.55p (21.23p) a share. The company is again passing the interim dividend.

Boscombe soars

Pre-tax profits at Boscombe Property more than trebled to £245,000 in the year to end-March. Having paid out two interim dividends of 40p (25p) and 90p (30p), the company is not paying a final dividend.

GDP down 2%

The latest average of independent forecasts compiled by the Treasury shows Britain's gross domestic product declining 2 per cent this year.

Lamont calls for free trade to help East Europe

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE best way for the European Community to foster the economic transformation of Eastern Europe is to liberalise and vastly increase trade with the former communist states, according to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor.

He emphasised that aid, already provided on a substantial scale, was not the best measure of what the West was giving, and it would be in nobody's interest for Eastern Europe to remain dependent on official external finance.

Securiguard interims boost hopes

By MICHAEL CLARK

SECURIGUARD, the security to industrial cleaning and services group, appears to be back on the road to recovery after cost-cutting and rationalisation.

Interim figures published two weeks early show pre-tax profits down from £3 million to £2.1 million, but Alan Baldwin, chairman, says the group is back on a growth track. The City is looking for an improvement in full-year figures, with pre-tax profits of £5 million forecast after the collapse to £3.8 million last year.

The figures include an exceptional item of £287,000 relating to a director's compensation for loss of office.

At the trading level, Securiguard suffered a fall of only £130,000 in profits. Mr Baldwin says British trading levels have been restored. But the business has been achieved at the cost of margins, with customers choosing non-premium services in the recessionary climate to reduce costs.

To reduce its own costs, Securiguard has merged five of its same-day courier subsidiaries into one that will now trade under the name of A to Z Couriers. The division is continuing to trade profitably.

The dividend has been held at 3.2p but the shares responded with a fall of 3p to 86p.

speech to the Institute of Economic Affairs in Westminster, reflect the stance the Group of Seven leaders are expected to adopt at the London economic summit on July 15-17.

Senior government sources said Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet president, who will be meeting the G7 leaders immediately after the summit, will not be coming with expectations of large-scale financial help for his crumbling economy.

Meanwhile, John Major, the prime minister, is expected to seek political backing from the summit for an "early, successful and comprehensive conclusion" to the stalled Uruguay Round talks on freer world trade, the sources said, noting that this meant aiming to conclude an agreement by year-end.

The government, the sources said, considered it quite feasible to reach a successful outcome to the world trade round without first reforming the EC's Common Agricultural Policy.

The summit leaders try to reassure Eastern Europe that it has not been forgotten by the leading industrial nations, despite the focus of attention on the Soviet Union because of Mr Gorbachev's post-summit meeting with the G7.

Mr Lamont said the economic problems of the Soviet Union were "even more daunting" than those of Eastern and Central Europe, but its commitment to political and economic reform had also been less wide-ranging.

He recalled that the post-war successes of the capitalist economies could not have taken place without the huge expansion and liberalisation of trade. Eastern Europe had been cut off from this opportunity.

But he said increased trade with the West would bring Eastern Europe into contact with superior products and technology, provide competition, and improve the allocation of resources by relating domestic to world market prices.

Mr Lamont said it was important for western investors, too, to know that, if they built a plant in Eastern Europe, the community market would be open to their products.

In the Community's trade talks with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the most reformed Eastern European countries, he said the goal should be free trade wherever possible within a decade. Early tariff cuts and quota increases were called for, with agriculture the most important sector.

In its latest half-yearly report, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said first signs had appeared that economic reforms in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia are working, while Romania and Bulgaria had little to show by way of tangible progress.



Tradition pays: John Manser, of Fleming, yesterday

Fleming enters top three for profits

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT Fleming has become the third most profitable merchant bank in the City.

John Manser, group chief executive, announced that strong profits from asset management and the Far East business held the bank to a 13 per cent fall in net profits to £31.8 million in the year to end-March.

Fleming's net profits, after transfers to inner reserves, ranked behind only SG Warburg and Hambros, in a year when many other houses were savaged by bad debt provisions or losses on securities. The results are a testimony to Fleming's decision in the Eighties to concentrate on its traditional fund management operations. Last year, its profits ranked only seventh in the City.

The unquoted bank is keeping its dividend for the year unchanged at 27.5p.

Fleming was hit, however,

by losses in its Japanese equity warrant business. The company also suffered bad debts on its £800 million loan book, but these were minimal, in contrast with Hill Samuel, which lost £319 million because of bad debts. Fleming refused to expand its lending rapidly in the late Eighties.

The banking division recorded record profits. Jardine Fleming, the group's half-owned far eastern business, was the largest contributor to group profits as it continued to expand around the Pacific rim, and made a net profit of HK\$577 million (£46 million), up a tenth.

During the year, the company was granted a licence to set up an investment trust company in Japan and hopes to have raised investments of \$800 million by the end of the year. Jardine has also now been granted branch status in Korea.

Rules enshrined in the EC's founding treaty prohibit firms from fixing prices or from using their market power whether they have a state-granted monopoly or not.

Sir Leon's senior adviser told reporters the enquiry covered telephone calls between EC countries and from the Community to other parts of the world. The commission expected to have replies from all the telephone companies by the autumn, he said.

EC probe launched into phone tariffs

Brussels

THE European Commission is launching an enquiry into whether telephone companies in the Community are overcharging for international calls.

Commission officials said they had gathered information from users and telephone companies worldwide in the past year and suspected EC telecommunications companies were using their market muscle to set excessive tariffs for calls abroad.

Charges generally drop in developed countries but that does not seem to be the case for the Community," said a spokesman for the EC's executive body, which could outline pricing agreements and levy heavy fines on companies guilty of overcharging.

"People often pay two or three times more for international calls than for calls within their own country," he said, adding that such a gap could not be justified solely because calls went abroad.

All EC telecommunications companies have been asked to show how they do their accounts and how they compensate each other for handling international calls.

American Telephone and Telegraph Co, Sprint and the Federal Communications Commission, the American companies, all complain that their EC counterparts take too big a slice of charges for transatlantic traffic, the spokesman said. Japanese and Scandinavian groups voice similar concerns.

"It's not just private users but businesses that are paying heavily," said another commission official.

Sir Leon Brittan, the commissioner who ordered the enquiry, said the commission was determined to ensure "that consumers and business users benefit from maximum price transparency and full compliance with the competition rules."

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(Reuter)

Scicon angry at BAe decision to sell stake

SD SCICON has reacted angrily to British Aerospace's decision to sell its 25 per cent shareholding in the company to America's EDS at 45p a share. "I have no doubt that our shareholders will reject EDS's attempt to acquire their shares at this ridiculously low price," said John Jackson, chairman. Scicon shares fell from 51p to 47p on the news of BAe's move, which raised £30 million, as analysts suggested that it virtually ruled out the possibility of a white knight coming to Scicon's rescue. BAe said it had received no other offers for its block of shares. Scicon has rejected a 45p-a-share cash offer from EDS that values the company at £121 million. A £111 million bid from Cray Electronics has also been rejected.

Druck over £3m pre-tax

DRUCK Holdings, manufacturer of electronic pressure measuring devices, reported pre-tax profits of £3.03 million and earnings of 29.6p a share for the nine months to end-March. Pre-tax profits in its last full financial year to end-June 1990 were £4.22 million, and earnings 40p a share. A dividend of 3.8p makes 6.6p for the nine months (8.8p annualised, up 7 per cent).

East German jobless rises

UNEMPLOYMENT in eastern Germany edged up last month, but in western Germany it dropped to a ten-year low, according to federal labour office data. The number of east Germans out of work last month was 842,504 (9.5 per cent of the workforce). The number of west German jobless fell to about 1,590,000, or 5.9 per cent, from 6 per cent in May.

Brown cuts payout

BROWN & Tawse, the steel and pipeline distributor, dipped into the red last year, and is cutting its final dividend from 6.65p to 2.85p, for a total of 5.7p (9.5p) a share. The group incurred a pre-tax loss of £1.17 million (£6.03 million profit), including exceptional costs of £2.9 million, relating mainly to the rationalisation of the branch network, redundancies and other cost economies. Borrowings were reduced to £19.5 million (£29.8 million). Gil Black, the chairman, said activity in all the group's markets was greatly reduced.

Interim falls at Dewhurst

DEWHURST, the advanced control technology company, reported pre-tax profits of £201,330 for the 26 weeks ended March 31, compared with £552,551 in the same period of the previous year. The group has maintained the interim dividend at 0.6p a share. Dewhurst blamed the recession for the decline and added that there was, as yet, no sign of recovery.

Stirling pays same again

STIRLING Group, the women's clothes maker, is keeping the final dividend at 1p a share for an unchanged 2.50p total. In the year to end-March, profits fell to £1.06 million (£2.74 million), with earnings of 2.23p (5.09p). Stirling has acquired E Gifford, an importer and distributor of casual clothes, for an initial £634,000 and a maximum contingent deferred £1.3 million.

Offer for Wyndham

WYNDHAM, the troubled Welsh car distributor, is subject to an offer from two directors of DG Durham Group, the Lloyd's of London insurance broker.

Richard Read, chairman of DG Durham, and John Bates, a fellow director, plan to reverse into Wyndham via a new vehicle, Calver Holdings. Calver is offering one new share for every four Wyndham shares and is raising £1.1 million through a placing and open offer of 27.5 million new shares. Wyndham has debts of about £65 million.

Trinity may make offer

TRINITY International Holdings, the newspaper group that owns the *Liverpool Echo* and the *Liverpool Daily Post*, has announced that it may make an offer for Southern Newspapers, owner of the *Southern Evening Echo*, shares in which are traded on a matched bargain basis. This raises the prospect of the first contested bid in the newspaper sector for decades.

MS dives to £59,000

MS International blamed the government's "severe restraint" on defence spending and the recession for the dive in its pre-tax profits for the year to end-April to £59,000 from £3.7 million last year. Turnover was £38.5 million (£36.9 million) and the final dividend is cut from 3.16p to 1.5p, making 2.5p (4.16p) for the year. The shares traded 2p lower at 35p.

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Gold Greenlees falls to £5m

By MARTIN WALLER

PRE-TAX profits from Gold Greenlees Trot, the advertising agency that ousted one of its founders, Dave Trot, a year ago, fell to £5.02 million (£7.68 million) in the year to end-April.

The company blamed the drop on the difficult economic climate and a disappointing performance from its recently acquired American operation.

The group is nevertheless sticking to its promise, made at the time of a profits warning in September, to maintain the year's dividend, with a 5p final making a total of 8.3p. Interest payments rocketed from £424,000 to £2.29 million in the year, while operating profits fell 16 per cent to £3.58 million.

Michael Greenlees, the joint chairman, said the adverse economic climate had made 1990-1 one of the most difficult in the company's history, but the results had still been in line with those anticipated 12 months ago, when a downturn had first been detected.

The year marked the first full contribution from GSD&M, the Texan operation. Because of the American recession, however, Mr Greenlees said the performance fell short of original targets.



Trot: ousted a year ago

Irish Life being sold off at £438m

By OUR CITY STAFF

IRISH Life, the Irish Republic's largest life insurance company, is being privatised at £160p (145.5p) a share, the Irish government announced.

The price is in the mid-range of estimates in the Dublin financial community, and values the company at £482 million (£438 million). The price also places the shares on a prospective dividend yield of 6.4 per cent, equivalent to the yield on shares in AIB Group and Bank of Ireland, the two main Irish banks, and about 0.4 per cent more than British life companies.

The minimum investment in the company is £163,200 for 200 shares in the offer for sale in Britain and Ireland. This closes on July 12. The shares begin trading on July 23, and

are expected to open at a modest premium.

The Irish government is reducing its 90 per cent stake to 34 per cent. AGF, the French insurer, and Kredietbank, the Belgian bank, are taking a 5 per cent stake.

The remaining 139 million shares are being sold in three separate tranches. 50 million have been placed with international institutions through Goldman Sachs, another 50 million have been placed with Irish institutions and the last 39 million have been reserved for the public offer. Employees and policyholders have been given priority applications in this tranche. Some 67,000 policyholders have registered for the sale, three times the number expected.

Ivory rises to £2.91m

IVORY & Sime, the Edinburgh investment management group, lifted profits from £2.56 million to £2.91 million in the year to end-April, on the back of a 16.5 per cent increase in funds under management to £2.6 billion.

The final dividend is held at 4.5p a share, making an unchanged 5.75p for the year.

Earnings per share are 6.15p after a lower tax charge, which reflected over-provision in previous years.

Alan Munro, appointed managing director yesterday, said costs had been cut by 11 per cent in the second half to produce unchanged administrative expenses for the year of £9.9 million.

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John Redwood uncorks a genie

COMMENT

John Redwood, the free-marketeer currently holding the portfolio for corporate affairs at the Department of Trade and Industry, is clearly a man to watch. His numerous city friends say, with some confidence, that before long he will replace Peter Lilley as trade secretary and has the appetite and the ability for even greater tasks.

All the more surprising therefore that Mr Redwood has presided over the approval of a new type of investment, due for launch in the autumn, which most of those who should know, are convinced will end in tears.

These new, and particularly nasty products, will manage to combine the extreme risks of gambling on financial futures and options, with the guise of the familiar and by now user-friendly unit trust. They are called futures and options funds (FOF), or in an even more volatile form Geared Futures and Options Funds (GFOF). They will be sold as unit trust funds, authorised by the SIB, with the approval of Mr Redwood. The end result of letting loose a kind of financial

wolf in sheep's clothing, promises serious damage to the wealth of unsuspecting savers.

The essential appeal of mainstream unit trusts is two-fold. One is the reduction of risk by pooling individual investments so that they can be deployed in a portfolio of shares. The other advantage is that private investors with little or no knowledge of financial markets can buy professional management of their cash. By and large, investors in broadly balanced unit trusts have fared handsomely over the past decade.

The original safety-first concept has, however, been watered down by over eager marketing men in the unit trust industry. Now there are a bewildering array of trusts to choose from, and some are more risky than a balanced portfolio of equities.

The GFOF is however something entirely different. The new rules coming into force will allow GFOFs to invest up to 20 per

cent in uncovered futures and options. But by gearing this exposure up by factors of six or seven times, the volatility of the units can become extreme. A fall of about one seventh in the value of the options or futures to which the fund is exposed could, in theory, wipe out the entire value of the investment.

Such volatility is fine for wide-eyed investors who know exactly what they are risking. The potential damage of the new products is that they will be sold as authorised trusts. Not surprisingly, the Unit Trust Association wants none of this. Its members fear that unscrupulous salesmen may peddle GFOFs by concentrating on the rewards rather than outlining the risks.

Though the documentation will have to carry some sort of risk warning, it may look like the

by now anodyne observation that values can go down as well as up. Mr Redwood will have to live with the charge that has uncorked a genie that will damage the financial services industry along with the savings of unsophisticated investors. His friends are fervently hoping that it does not harm him too.

Grim Lucas

Grim though the news from Lucas is, there could be grimmer yet. Between the lines of yesterday's profit warning it was possible to discern the sombre prospect of more redundancies, probably before the month is out.

Little more than three months ago, interim results from Lucas showing a 30 per cent plunge in

pretax profits, finally confirmed that the current recession was more than a blip. The latest tidings might convince most people that recession has now become a slump.

Just as in March, Tony Gill, knighted between times, took the market by surprise. Over the previous decade Lucas had impressed the City with its efforts to ensure that it never again succumbed to the humiliation of a loss that it suffered back in 1979. If the UK economy caught cold, Lucas might sneeze.

Lucas in fact has a severe chill. It has made only half as much profit in its second half-year, which ends this month, as it did in its depressing first half, and must be sweating over whether it can cover an unchanged dividend.

The 31.8 per cent slump in June car sales, to the worst June performance since 1970, and the round of severe price reductions announced this week by Ford,

underline the problem. Analysts now believe that Lucas will have done well to have made a profit at all on its UK automotive operations, which of course has unpalatable implications for earnings per share, depriving the group of its ability to write off Advance Corporation Tax.

The consensus is, however, that Sir Tony will want to underline his faith in the future by holding the dividend. He will also be aware that any further weakening in the share price could tempt in the bidder that some corners of the market like to believe is waiting in the wings.

The number to which Lucas analysts were making the biggest adjustment last night was exceptional items. This could indicate that another 2,000 employees, on top of the 2,000 already announced, will soon be made redundant.

Not even the cut in interest rates, that may or may not be imminent, again will be enough to save these jobs, or repair the Lucas p&l account this year. Without it though it may soon be time to start worrying about 1992.

Securicor's escape from recession may lie abroad



Faith in Cellnet: Roger Wiggs, Securicor chief executive

PARCELS sent via Securicor may well continue to arrive within hours, but a profits recovery after the setback in interim profits announced yesterday could take longer.

Securicor Group and its 50.75 per cent-owned Security Services suffered from a combination of recessionary conditions across the range of its interests, and in particular from a much-reduced contribution from the group's 40 per cent stake in Cellnet.

Cellnet's woes were compounded by £7 million of bad debts, and the communications side saw its loss rise from £2.94 million to £4.5 million, while profits from cellular radio came back from £19.8 million to £12.1 million. Cellnet's reduction led to Securicor's first profits setback in years, with interim pre-tax profits down from £30.9 million to £13.5 million, while profits at Services fell from £22.5 million to £8.8 million.

Roger Wiggs, chief executive, still believes Cellnet is one of the best investments Securicor has made, but concedes that the recession will have to blow itself out before Cellnet's profits potential is realised.

Interim dividends are maintained at both companies (0.61p at Securicor and 1.29p at Services), and remain very well covered.

The core security and parcels division, showing a pre-tax contribution of £4.95 million (£10.6 million), reflects merely a break-even position within parcels.

There is likely to be a development of interests on the Continent and in the Far East in an effort to grow out of the recession in Britain, but now that the proceeds of the May 1989 rights issues have been fully deployed within the businesses, the Securicor twins look like having to wait before last year's record pre-tax £51.9 million is challenged. Perhaps about £32 million pre-tax will be seen for the full year at Securicor, rising to £45 million next year. The investment fan club is closely associated with Cellnet hopes, so at 660p, down 53p, trading on 45.5 times prospective earnings (a rating that eases to 34 times on 1992 profit hopes), the shares still have their fans.

Markheath

JUGGLING corporate assets is never easy, but when a company's gearing approaches 120 per cent, it becomes virtually impossible.

So, Markheath Securities deserves modest congratula-

tions for catching roughly one-and-a-half of the three balls it threw in the air this spring. Four months ago, the company looked trapped between a rock and a hard place. After its £63 million acquisition of Camford Engineering, gearing soared just as recession began to grip manufacturing and property.

Faced with the choice of selling property, property-backed shares or an engineering business, Markheath opted for all three, knowing the chances of them succeeding were slim.

The strategy still worked, in that gearing is now a more manageable 60 per cent, but not without cost to the profit and loss account. This shows a £4.1 million pre-tax loss, compared with an £11.8 million profit last time.

Most of the damage has been done by Markheath's 23 per cent stake in Frogmore Estates. The loss crystallised when a 10 per cent stake was sold to Barclays de Zoete Wedd. This and the subsequent writedown of the 13 per cent Markheath retained collectively cost the company £11.9 million.

The money raised gave Markheath the flexibility to drive a better bargain with Hoechst, the German company that eventually bought Camford for £54 million, a sale that brought gearing back under control and Markheath back to property, its core business.

Property, of course, is not the most dynamic business currently. Net assets per share fell 25 per cent to 64.6p and could fall towards 55p. Complicated with the continuing un-

certainties surrounding Adelaide Steamship, Markheath's 61 per cent shareholder, the shares, at 29p, look unlikely to run away.

Northern Electric

TIME alone will tell if Northern Electric has adopted the right strategy in sticking rigidly to its knitting and eschewing risk. But with the company sitting at the top of the yield curve among the 12 electricity distributors, it is clear the City is less than impressed.

Northern's pre-tax profits were £16.1 million higher than the prospectus forecast at £89.2 million in the year to end-March. The improvement came almost entirely from higher than expected unit sales growth through its distribution business. As part of its risk-averse strategy, it has a low profile in the supply market, and unlike a number of the companies has not underwritten capital spending, matching the £62 million initially forecast for 1990-1.

Gearing was reduced to 27 per cent by year-end. The only heavy investment on the horizon is the £32 million for Northern's share in the ICI/Enron generation project, which would become payable in 1993.

A second Teesside scheme is looking increasingly doubtful, with no secured gas supplies and the withdrawal of one of the three equity partners, BOC. Northern says gamely it is talking to other possible suppliers among the oil and gas majors, but the City gives the Neptune project scant chance of success.

Demand growth over the past year was spotty, fair increases in the commercial and domestic markets being counterbalanced by a decline on the industrial side, particularly its big chemicals customers, but actual cash flow was strong. Northern will therefore presumably be joining one or two other distributors in piling up money in the bank in coming years.

The optimists' view, therefore, is that the company may well decide to pay out proportionately more of this extra cash to shareholders, given the shares' low rating. Super-optimists see Northern as one of the most likely bid candidates once the gloves come off in a few years. This is a strictly long-term view, for now, the shares look unlikely to outperform, although the low risk profile and high yield have their attractions.

Lending less for better banking

BANKS will lend less and cut back to their core businesses, but provide a better service in the next decade, according to Lord Alexander of Wealden, the chairman of National Westminster Bank.

In a speech to the Institute of Chartered Accountants' annual conference in Jersey, Lord Alexander laid out an agenda for the British and international banking industry in the Nineties, and made accountability its key.

He said banks have been taught by experience that they need to confine their activities. "There may be a tendency for banks to restrict business ambitions to resources which are already available."

His message comes as many banks are looking at closing or selling operations. NatWest is reviewing the future of its investment banking division. Lord Alexander said over competition between banks will lead to a reduction in lending. "If banks did not have a proper regard for their customers' ability to service a

debt, we would be pilloried for irresponsible lending. Lending-led expansion is always dangerous for banks because it enhances risk." NatWest is expected next month to announce a disastrous set of interim figures, and may only break even, due to heavy debt provisions.

Lord Alexander said intense competition would drive out

sensitivity of our customer." The speech is a clear indication that NatWest is looking at accusations of poor service, brought to light by the row between banks and small businesses, and at ways to improve service to their 1 million small business customers.

Lord Alexander said Britain's banks need a stable economic climate to prevent the

accountancy profession. He called for legislation to make accountants liable for negligence, and overturn the House of Lords decision on the Caparo case.

Lord Alexander, a former barrister, suggested the new law should limit professional liability, to prevent excessive damages awards. He also called on for the disclosure of non-audit fees to accountants in annual reports, to prevent the industry being accused of conflicts of interest.

The breadth of the speech bears witness to the strong lead Lord Alexander has taken in the banking industry in general since he joined NatWest less than two years ago.

In the short term, banks around the world are reeling from recession and loan losses. On a larger scale many are retrenching to avoid a repeat of the over-competition and subsequent credit explosion that occurred in the Eighties.

NEIL BENNETT
Banking Correspondent

IS THE LEADING ACQUISITIONS HOUSE IN ITALY, ITALIAN?

Undoubtedly, Euromobiliare SpA, based in Milan, is Italian, and in 1990 it once again completed the largest number of M & A deals in Italy.

It is one of the most active trading houses in Italian equities, warrants and convertible bonds, with volume last year of Lit 4,500 billion. Recently Euromobiliare lead managed, with Samuel Montagu, a Lit 100 billion, 5 year bond issue for Landesbank Baden-Württemberg. And Euromobiliare's sophisticated research department is considered to be one of the most experienced and informed throughout the international financial community.

In the past five years Euromobiliare has successfully completed over 100 domestic and cross border deals with a value of over Lit 1500 billion.

Yet Euromobiliare is also part of Midland Group's merchant banking network, brought together under Midland Montagu, with Samuel Montagu being the focus in the UK. It facilitates such cross border transactions as advising in the sale of Sodak's detergent business, Lavasbianca, to Reckitt & Co. Ltd.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fyler joins Hoare's team

THERE is much back-slapping in the Broadgate offices of Hoare Govett over the news that Nick Fyler, one of the ex-Wedd Durlacher partners, is joining the market-making team. Fyler, a larger-than-life City character, joins in ten days to work alongside Peter Greenwood, a former Wedd colleague, who took over as head of market-making after Nigel Hughes stormed out in February. Fyler left BZW in December after 20 years with the firm, and will have some colourful tales for his new colleagues. He is equally adept at golf, football and cricket, and likes the odd punt at the races.

Called in to bat

SIR LAWRIE BARRATT, chairman of Barratt Developments, has more than a mere fall in house sales to worry about. Sir Lawrie, who paid £1.5 million for the 4,280-acre Farndale estate in North Yorkshire in

1982, is being pressured by his local cricket team, which is seeking sponsorship for its endeavours. The team managed a mere eight runs between ten players in a game this week, but remain hopeful that Sir Lawrie will bow to their demands.

All aground

EVEN the more adventurous City gents have been politely excusing themselves from a sailing trip next week arranged by Max Bascombe, of Nomura

International, who has only just recovered his nerve after a just-recovered voyage a couple of years ago. After leaving Southampton for Cherbourg, his craft ran aground in the Solent twice, to the dismay of passengers, including Mark Garraway, of College Hill Associates, and Deborah Morrison, of Hambro Magan. On the return journey, in thick fog, the crew was startled by the lowing of cattle followed by a loud thud. They had run aground on the Dorset coast.

Flight on call

AEROFLOT, the Soviet state airline, is clearly concerned about the number of "no shows" on its international flights. A party of guests arrived in Paris last week, en route for Moscow to celebrate a new investment by an American company in the Soviet Union. The hosts had forked out \$38,000 to charter an Aeroflot plane for the trip, so were understandably dismayed when the ticketing clerk picked up the telephone, dialled Moscow, and said:

"They've arrived, you can send the plane now." The guests, including two American senators, spent the rest of the day waiting for the flight.

Cure of all ills

THE City's more fashionable solicitors will be out in force tonight for the Carbolic Smoke Ball, one of the legal profession's social highlights. About 500 guests are expected at the Hurlingham Club, Fulham, for the ball that takes its name from one of Victorian England's most notorious scams. The Carbolic Smoke Ball Company, well known to law students, promised the "perfect" antidote to an influenza epidemic that raged in the late 1800s. The balls were useless, but have since become valuable collectors' items, and one changed hands last year for about £10,000. The ball is in aid of The Sick Children's Trust and The Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal.

JON ASHWORTH



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10	Bee	Food	
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12	Lloyds	Banks, Discount	
13	Sieck	Industrial S-Z	
14	HSBC	Banks, Discount	
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35	Johnson Marley	Industrial E-K	
36	Dalry	Food	
37	William Hodge	Industrial S-Z	
38	Anglian Water	Water	
39	ICI	Industrial E-K	
40	Old Blenheim	Food	
41	Tridinger H	Industrial S-Z	
42	Bowater	Industrial A-D	
43	Turkell	Building, Roads	
44	Hepworth	Industrial E-K	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of 24,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

The £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won by Duncan McComachie, of Edinburgh, yesterday.

BRITISH FUNDS

Shorts (Under Five Years)

Fund	Price	Change	%
...

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Fund	Price	Change	%
...

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Fund	Price	Change	%
...

UNDATED

Fund	Price	Change	%
...

INDEX-LINKED

Fund	Price	Change	%
...

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	Price	Change	%
...

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares gain in thin trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 1. Dealings end July 12. Contango day July 15. Settlement day July 22.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

BREWERIES

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

ELECTRICITY

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

FINANCE, LAND

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

FOODS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

INSURANCE

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

LEISURE

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

MINING

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

OILS, GAS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

PROPERTY

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

SHOES, LEATHER

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

TEXTILES

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

TOBACCO

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

TRANSPORT

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

WATER

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

WATER

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

WATER

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

WATER

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

WATER

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

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No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

PROPERTY

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

SHOES, LEATHER

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

TEXTILES

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

TOBACCO

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

TRANSPORT

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

WATER

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

WATER

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
...

© Ex dividend a Ex at b Forecast dividend c Interest payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i Forecast earnings e Ex other f Ex rights e Ex scrip or share split i Two-line ... No significant data.

[illegible][illegible]

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was same at 89.5 (day's range 89.4-89.5)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Unit Rates for July 4	Range	Close	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Amersterdam	3.3091-3.3175	3.3128-3.3175	3-Mo	15-Mo		
Buenos Aires	60.36-90.84	60.40-60.84	15-Mo	25-Mo		
Frankfurt	11.8767-11.8840	11.8767-11.8840	25-Mo	39-Mo		
London	1.0095-1.0100	1.0099-1.0100	39-Mo	54-Mo		
Prague	2.9383-2.9435	2.9409-2.9432	54-Mo	70-Mo		
Stockholm	1.055-1.067.0	1.055-1.067.0	70-Mo	15-Mo		
Madrid	165.29-165.40	165.32-165.40	15-Mo	24-Mo		
Mexico	218.93-219.185	218.93-219.185	24-Mo	36-Mo		
Paris	1.2391-1.2397	1.2391-1.2397	36-Mo	44-Mo		
New York	1.0035-1.0040	1.0035-1.0040	44-Mo	1.56-1.59		
Geneva	11.6821-11.6886	11.6821-11.6886	1.56-1.59	24-Mo		
Brussels	1.8059-1.8075	1.8059-1.8075	24-Mo	36-Mo		
Paris	10.8217-10.8272	10.8217-10.8272	36-Mo	1.56-1.59		
Stockholm	222.67-222.74	222.67-222.74	1.56-1.59	24-Mo		
London	20.67-20.72	20.68-20.72	24-Mo	36-Mo		
Stockholm	2.5367-2.5423	2.5369-2.5423	36-Mo	25-Mo		
Source: <i>Eurol</i>						

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rate: Clearing Banks 11% France Has 11%						
Discount Market Loans: Overnight High 11%	Low 11%	Week End 11%				
Treasury Bills (60-day): 3-Mo 10% 6-Mo 10% 9-Mo 10% 12-Mo 10%						

	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Prime Bank Bills (30p)	11%+11%	10%+10%	10%+10%	10%+10%
Discounting Money Rates	11%+11%	11%+11%	11%+11%	10%+10%
Overnight open 11%, close 11%	11%+11%	11%+11%	10%+10%	10%+10%
Local Authority Rates	11%	n/a	n/a	10%
Interbank	11%+11%	11%+11%	10%+10%	10%+10%
Bidder Call	6.02-6.57	6.05-6.40	6.12-6.07	6.40-6.35
Selling Society Chgs	11%+11%	11%+11%	10%+10%	10%+10%

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Germany	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
France	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
Switzerland	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
Belgium	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
Netherlands	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
Denmark	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
Italy	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

(Fixed & City)

Bullion: Open \$305.50-306.00	Close \$305.50-306.00	High \$310.00-307.00
Low \$300.00-300.50	Krugersand: \$307.75-308.75	\$229.50-308.00
Overseas: Old \$86.75-87.75 (\$25.50-54.50)	New \$85.25-85.75 (\$23.25-54.25)	
Palladium: \$378.75 (\$27.50)	Silver: \$44.00-44.50	Pelagos: \$87.75 (\$8.25)

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	15898.5-15964.1	Ireland	1.4985-1.4980
Australia dollar	2.1010-2.1022	Sierra Leone	2.1010-2.1022
Bahian dollar	0.951-0.952	Malaysia	2.7367-2.7367
Brazil cruzeiro	5.47-5.908.25	Australia	1.3080-1.3080
Canada pound	5.34-5.34	Canada	1.1415-1.1424
Colombian marks	5.9075-7.0075	Sweden	0.6246-0.6250
Denmark kroner	0.755-0.748	Norway	7.1450-7.1450
Hong Kong dollar	12.615-12.614	Japan	2.7083-2.7083
India rupee	12.44-12.44	Netherlands	1.3250-1.3250
Indonesia	0.94-0.94	France	2.7083-2.7083
Malaysia ringgit	4.4822-4.4827	West Germany	2.0230-2.0230
Mexico peso	6.085-6.085	Belgium	6.2150-6.2220
Philippines	2.95-2.95	Italy	1.3302-1.3302
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6775-5.6775	Spain (Pena)	37.56-37.57
South Africa rand	2.9275-2.9275	Portugal	2.7083-2.7083
S Africa rand (fin)	5.975-5.975	Argentina	1.5

[illegible]

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Horse-power trading for a good runner

Showrooms and auctions can be daunting to the car buyer. Kevin Eason visits Sandown racecourse for the ultimate in car boot sales

Beats of sweat on the brow of the nervous motorist are proof of the tension involved in buying a car. The showroom exposes the motorist to a glass and the world, in which the salesman is king, wielding the power to cajole people out of the most money they spend next to their mortgage.

Seeking even the cheapest classic car at auction can be worse, for both buyer and seller. Buyers face the ordeal of standing in a crowded auction room and are often forced, in the heat of the moment, to bid higher than they want to pay for the car of their dreams.

Sellers know that when the car is sold, the auctioneer usually takes at least 10 per cent of the agreed price from both parties. That can be a painful moment for owners of classic cars costing anything from £20,000 to £1 million.

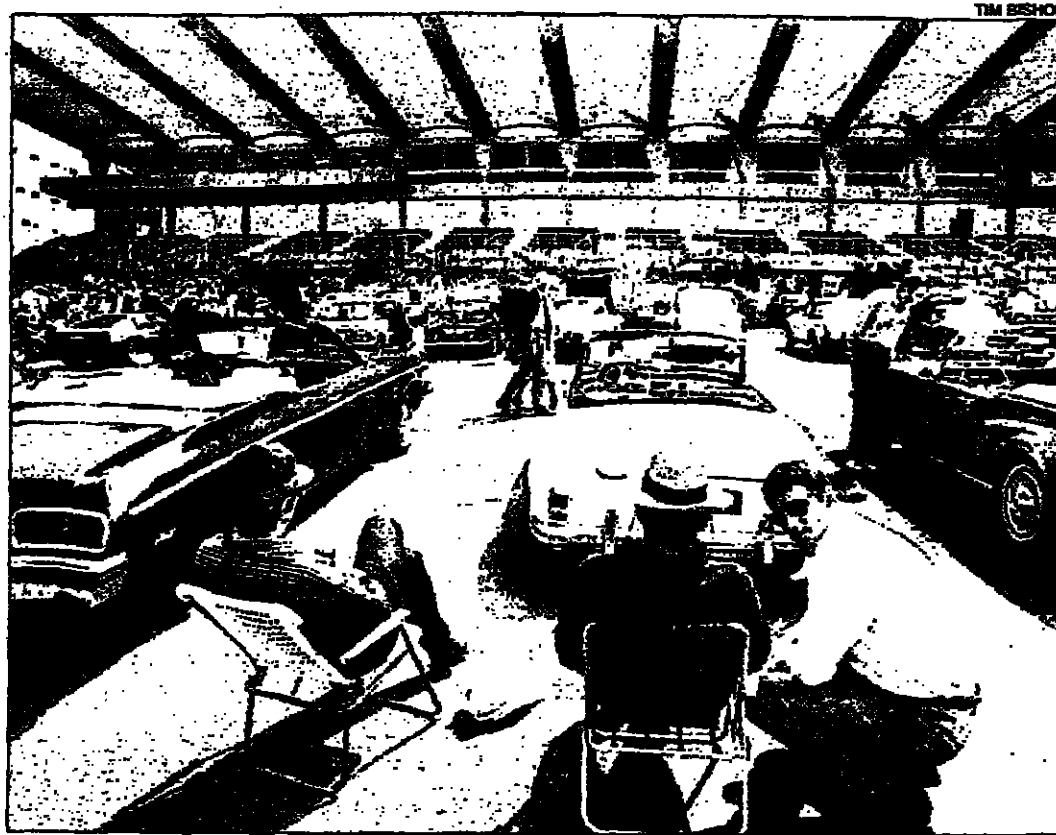
However, the recession has made some owners think twice before hiring a selling agent and

this has led to the growth of the newest and most novel idea in selling — motor markets.

Motorists lined up more than 400 cars, from MGs to a £700,000 Aston Martin, at the Sandown Park racecourse in Surrey last weekend to find buyers. The owners of the most expensive cars had the reassurance that, if they failed, there was only a £50 show fee to pay. For those who found a buyer, there was the knowledge that they were safe from heavy auction fees.

Freddie Bamister, the organiser, explains: "Many owners of classic cars do not like to pay auction fees, which might be as much as 15 per cent of their selling price. That is a lot of money on an expensive car."

After talking to many of the enthusiasts' clubs, we hit on the idea that a flat fee to show your car would be a good idea. It is also excellent for prospective purchasers because there is no high-



Picking a winner: buyers and sellers trade in a relaxed way at the Sandown Park car market

pressure selling. They can take their time and look around before actually talking to the owner instead of a middle man.

The setting of Sandown Park was perfect and hot sunshine beat down on the bonnets of some spectacular cars. The good weather helped sales along and about a third of the entries were sold on the day. Many other vendors picked up contacts that are still being followed up.

Richard Williams, of R.S. Williams, at Cobham, Surrey, took along Aston Martins worth from £58,000 to £700,000, the price for a racing car built for Le Mans, a 740

brake horsepower monster with a V8, 32-valve engine capable of 240mph. This week he was talking to potential customers, who had viewed the cars at Sandown Park and wanted to think over deals.

He says: "I believe auctions are needed only when you cannot sell a car. Cars that are wanted will sell and fetch their price, which is why this idea is an excellent one."

Cars other than the exotics are going into motor markets. More than two dozen vehicles were displayed at Tobacco Dock, east

London, last Sunday for what organisers called a boot sale, with the rest of the car attached. Prices ranged from £2,000 to £10,000. Cars represented included Ford Escorts and Orions and Mercedes.

David Davies, of British Auto Sales Parks, says the sagging economy means motorists want to sell easily and cheaply. His company charges £15 for a place on the site and gives a free slot at the next event if there is no sale on the day.

The next sale is on July 14 at Hewitt's Farm, Chislehurst, Kent. "All we do is make the marketplace," he says. "The rest is up to the motorist and the vendor."

Missing lifesavers

THERE may be 13 million cars without rear seat belts, making them potentially dangerous, according to the Superdrive chain of 170 fitting centres. The company claims that, despite the new law insisting that rear passengers wear belts, fewer than half the cars in Britain have them, and advises motorists to consider having them fitted. The government estimates the new legislation could save 100 lives and 1,000 serious injuries every year. Halford service centres and Kwik-Fit are also offering a while-you-wait seat belt fitting service.

Sorry, no fingers

THE old finger and thumb examination in the MoT test to discover whether car bodywork is thoroughly rusty has been abolished by the transport department. The test has relied on mechanics to prod and poke where they thought fit and to use the pressure of finger and thumb to decide the extent of corrosion. From November they will use a grandly named corrosion assessment tool for testing.

Midget show

BRITISH Motor Heritage's new bodysuits for MG Midgets will be seen first at the MG World exhibition on August 31 and September 1 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Heritage has rebuilt MGBs for some time but is extending its activities to the Midget and other marques to help to prolong the active life of some of Britain's most famous cars.

Historic send-off

SILVERSTONE will reverberate to the roar of some of the most historic race cars in the world as a prelude to the British Grand Prix next Friday. The cars include the 1962 Lotus 25 in which Jim Clark won the South African Grand Prix and the former Scuderia Ferrari team Alfa Romeo Monoposto P3 which won the first British Grand Prix in 1935.

Taxi! To the beach

THE London cab, a fixture in the capital and other British cities, is to become just as recognisable in the Far East. London Taxis International has sent 60 white Fairway cabs to Singapore, where the residents use them not only as daily transport, but also as weekend cruisers. The cabs are fitted with air-conditioning to cope with the climate. Singapore families

find them more spacious than their conventional saloons for going off to holiday resorts.

Dearer Troopers

ISUZU is increasing the price of its Trooper 4x4 range by between 2.2 and 5.2 per cent. The company says the price rises are the first for two years and contain double-figure inflation during that period. The range starts at £12,898 on the road for a 2.6 petrol injection short wheelbase model to £18,898 for the 2.6 petrol injection long wheelbase Citation automatic.

And for the wife...

FIRST stop for Captain Ernest Hames, of the Royal Engineers, who recently won £1.6 million on the pools was a Mercedes garage. When asked about his first purchase he said it would be a new Mercedes. He was soon at his local dealer in Maidstone, Kent, ordering a £45,000 300TE 24v Estate



with all the trimmings, including cream leather seats and air-conditioning. The choice was just as clear-cut for his wife, Sue, although she clearly likes to keep her feet on the ground. Her choice was a pair of Marks & Spencer slippers, costing £11, presented to her by the Mercedes dealer.

New models debut

NEW cars galore will be on view at Motorfair, the London motor show. The organisers say they have signed up Rover, Peugeot and Honda all to show new models among 30 making their British debut. The show is from October 17 to 27 at Earls Court.

L-test hopes

WAITING times for driving tests will be cut on average from eight to six weeks if targets set by the Driving Standards Agency are achieved. Improvements proposed include spending £1.6 million on test centres and telephone booking services. In London, waiting time should go down from 12 to ten weeks.

A budget buy all the way from South Africa

THE quickening rehabilitation of South Africa in the world community is helping to bring yet another name to British motoring. South Africa's Sao car is unknown in Britain, but from this week it joins the line-up of minor makes, such as Proton, Kia, Lada and Skoda, that offer budget motoring (Kevin Eason writes).

The brand comes from the South African Motor Corporation (Samcor), formed by the multinational partnership of Ford, Mazda and Mitsubishi. Samcor is South Africa's second biggest vehicle producer, developed from a merger between the Ford and Chrysler operations in South Africa in 1985. The contribution of the two Japanese manufacturers has helped to increase the model's

Political changes have persuaded a Pretoria car manufacturer that the time is right to export to Britain

range and efficiency and improve its image.

The Sao Penza models going on sale in Britain, through the MCL Group, are South African versions of Mazda's 323 series. Britain is getting the 1.3 Penza in two



A 1.3-litre car for less than £8,000: the front-wheel drive Sao Penza, in hatchback and saloon version

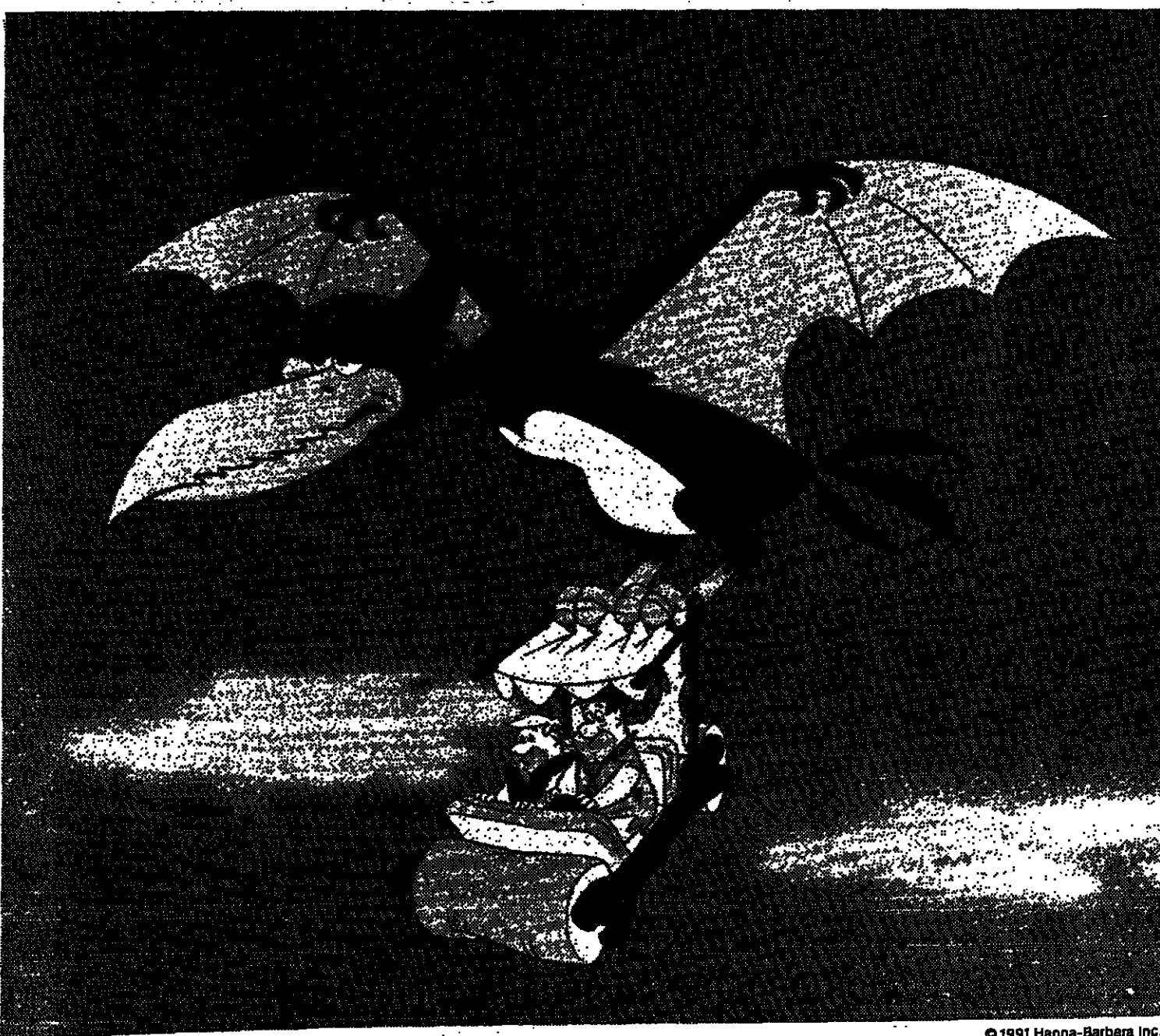
models, competitively priced at £7,549 for the hatchback and £7,695 for the saloon.

With front-wheel drive and the proven Mazda technology, the Penza promises few surprises. The four-cylinder engine offers just

over 63bhp at 5,500rpm for a top speed of 92mph and fuel consumption around town of 29.1mpg of unleaded or leaded petrol, which should give a touring range of up to 450 miles. Standard features include retractable radio

aerial and security-glass etching.

Although many will see the introduction of the car to Britain as a gamble, the background of its manufacturer is impressive. The Pretoria factory is has a capacity of 500 vehicles a day.



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House of Lords

Law Report July 5 1991

Chancery Division

Right of election is individual

Brentwood Justices, Ex parte Nicholas.
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths and Lord Oliver of Aylmerton [Speeches July 4]

Where a number of defendants appeared before a magistrate's court jointly charged with an offence triable either summarily or on indictment, section 20(3) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 required that the right of election was given to each accused individually: the fact that one had elected for trial on indictment did not require the justices to commit all the defendants to the crown court.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by the applicant, Mark Ernest Nicholas, from the dismissal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Potts) [The Times May 21, 1990; [1990] 2 QB 595] of his application for judicial review of a decision of Brentwood Justices on January 16, 1990.

The applicant and two others had been charged with driving an offence triable either way. The justices, having decided that the case was more suitable for summary trial, asked each of the accused to consent to section 20(3) if he consented to be tried summarily.

The applicant and one co-accused had consented to summary trial but, on the other co-accused electing for trial on indictment, the justices, having heard the prosecution and the defence said: "We agree with the prosecution, with the age-old custom and practice, whatever the words of the statute might say" and adjourned the case of all three defendants for crown court committal proceedings.

Section 20 provides: "(1) If it appears to the court that the offence is more suitable for summary trial, the following provisions shall apply:— (2) The court shall explain to the accused... (a) that it appears to the court more suitable for him to be tried summarily for the offence, and that he can either consent to be so tried or, if he wishes, be tried by a jury... (3) After explaining to the accused as provided by subsection (2) above the court shall ask him whether he consents to be tried summarily or wishes to be tried by a jury; and— (a) if he consents to be tried summarily, shall proceed to the summary trial of the information; (b) if he does not so consent, shall proceed to enquire into the information as examining justices."

Mr Michael Hill, QC and Mr Michael M Wood for the applicant, Mr Michael Kalisher, QC and Mr Andrew Williams for the prosecution.

LORD KEITH said that the ground upon which the Divisional Court had decided against the applicant had been that section 6(c) of the Interpretation Act 1978 had to be applied in construing section 20(3). Section 6(c) provided: "In any Act, unless the contrary intention appears... (c) words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular."

The result of substituting the plural for the singular in section 20(3) would be "After explaining to the accused persons as provided by subsection (2) above the court shall ask them whether they consent to be tried summarily or wish to be tried by a jury and— (a) if they consent to be tried summarily, shall proceed to the summary trial of the information; (b) if they do not so consent, shall proceed to enquire into the information as examining justices."

The sense of that would appear to be that where there were more than one accused the required question should be put to all the accused collectively and answered by them collectively. No doubt if all the accused persons either consented or did not consent to summary trial either paragraph (a) or (b), as the case might be, would be capable of being applied.

But if there was no collective response, because one or more of the accused consented to summary trial but one or more did not, the mere fact that the plural had been substituted for the singular in the subsection would not lead to the result that paragraph (b) was applicable.

For that to be so it would be necessary to read "they" in paragraph (a) as "they all" and "they" in paragraph (b) as "they or any of them". That involved more than the mere substitution of the plural for the singular.

But in any event a consideration of the whole of section 20 of the Act led Lord Keith to the conclusion that the right of election was given to each accused individually, and that the result of it was not intended to be affected by the nature of any different election made by any of the co-accused.

In the course of his judgment in the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Watkins had said that the applicant had been charged with a controlled drug contrary to section 5(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, and with a behaviour contrary to section 4(1)(a) of the Public Order Act 1986.

The judge had of his own volition ordered that he would only list for trial for possession of controlled drugs once the summary trial for threatening behaviour had taken place, for the judge was of the opinion that

the intention of Parliament that the election required by section 20(3) should be by each accused individually and not a collective election where there were more than one accused person.

Section 18(1) was directed to the position of the individual accused. There was no need to import the plural in order that the subsection might have full effect.

Then section 22 provided for a special procedure to be followed where the offence charged was one of those mentioned in Schedule 2 to the Act and the value involved was below a certain limit. Subsection (5) provided that if it was not clear to the court whether the value involved exceeded the limit, then subsections (5) and (6) were to apply.

Counsel for the prosecution had accepted that in subsections (5) and (6) the reference was exclusively to an accused person individually and not to accused persons collectively. Any other construction could have the effect of depriving an accused person of his right to elect summary trial.

It was quite apparent that subsection (4) of section 20(3) could have reference to an accused person individually and not to accused persons collectively.

It was an irresistible conclusion that in section 20(3) the right of election was given to each accused individually, and that the result of it was not intended to be affected by the nature of any different election made by any of the co-accused.

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No forfeit in part disclaimer of title

W.G. Clark (Properties) Ltd v Dure Properties Ltd
Before Mr Thomas Morison, QC [Judgment June 4]

Where in proceedings a tenant, although asserting his landlord's title to most of the premises, denied it as to part and the premises were not severable so as to be let separately, that disclaimer of the landlord's title to part only of the premises was not such as to justify the landlord forfeiting the tenant's lease.

Mr Thomas Morison, QC, sitting as a deputy Chancery Division judge, so held in a reserved judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers on an appeal by Dure Properties Ltd against the refusal of Master Blunbury to strike out proceedings brought against it by W.G. Clark (Properties) Ltd under Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Paul Collins for Dure Properties, Mr Christopher R. Parker for Clark.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Clark let a basement flat to Dure by a lease dated October 7, 1974. Some years later Dure wished to build an extension to the flat and Clark refused to give consent to Dure carrying out certain works in the courtyard on payment of some £5,000.

It was common ground between the parties that the effect of the deed was a surrender by Dure of its original interest and a re-grant by Clark of a new lease of the flat and the courtyard.

The building works were carried out, the effect of which was to incorporate the title of the courtyard into the flat leaving the other part as an open patio.

In April 1987 the Land Registry refused to register the deed of variation because a third party was the registered proprietor of the courtyard.

Dure then brought proceedings against Clark in the course of which Dure alleged in its statement of claim that the third party was the registered owner of the courtyard and that Clark had, in the course of negotiations leading to the making of the deed of variation, falsely represented that it had title to the courtyard and as a result of that misrepresentation Dure had suffered loss and damage.

On September 28, 1989 Clark struck out the proceedings against Dure claiming possession on the ground that by its statement of claim Dure had denied Clark's title to the basement flat and that the third party was not Clark and was the freehold owner of the courtyard at the time of the deed of variation of July 1986.

The main questions were, in what circumstances, if any, did a landlord become entitled to claim possession by reason of a denial by a tenant in a pleading of the landlord's title to part of the premises, and if so, what was the effect of such a denial?

Clark argued that by disclaiming part, Dure had repudiated the whole lease: it was all nothing, Dure argued that the disclaimer was to most of the premises and disclaiming as to part, either the position was equivocal and lacked element of certainty that required for the doctrine of disclaimer to operate, or a disclaimer of part could lead to a right to forfeit in part and then "if the part is severable from the whole."

As a result of the works which had been done, part of the courtyard had become an integral part of the rest of the flat. The two parts were physically separate but capable of being let and enjoyed separately.

In his Lordship's judgment, on the facts, he did not consider that Dure had unequivocally or clearly repudiated the single relationship of landlord and tenant. Partial disclaimer was not enough to constitute disclaimer as to the whole.

To conclude otherwise would be to ignore the fact that a relationship was, at the time, being asserted. This was not a case of a tenant saying "you are not my landlord" or "you are a landlord, but you did not have the right to grant me a lease of small part of the premises."

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BRIEFINGS

By Sally Watts

entrepreneurs needing development cash. About 20 enterprise councils, including those of Hertfordshire, Leeds, Teesside, Manchester and Walsall, have launched initiatives of various kinds.

Leeds is using a voucher scheme offering low-cost advice and skills help, while Teesside is concentrating on start-ups, and Manchester is getting bigger companies to influence the development of their small business suppliers. Walsall is offering a free business "health check" to firms that have been trading more than a year.

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"Coming here is about the nearest I'll get to a holiday this year!"

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Hard grind: Doug Moore fabricating a new steel narrowboat hull at his Barnoldswick boatyard

(Boatbuilders) Limited, gradually grew until it was employing four men full time and building up to four boats a year. By 1984 it needed more space so the Moore family, including two children, moved to Barnoldswick.

Low borrowing has meant slower growth. The Moores have used their profits to extend the boatbuilding and then to fund the venture into hiring. "We just started dipping our toes in hire," Mr Moore recalls. "Barnoldswick is a tourist area, and I saw day hire and short breaks as a possible growth area."

hire craft, for day outings (currently between £42 and £56) depending on the month and the number of people); this boat helped to fund Judy, the second, launched the year after for short breaks (prices are based on duration). Rosie, the third, is being marketed this season for weekly hire at up to £765 for four people.

"Marketing is becoming extremely expensive," says Mr Moore, whose business includes a canal shop. "Although the recession has affected the 1991 holiday industry, boating has developed to the point where we can see the market continuing to expand."

□ Small firms are twice as likely as large companies to be increasing spending on training, according to a survey by Cranfield School of Management. Of 250 small firms surveyed, 95 per cent expected to hold or increase spending on staff training and management development. Responses indicated that small companies see training as a way to survive in recession by enabling staff to respond quickly to new opportunities.

☐ Manchester Business School is running two-day practical workshops showing how improved service to customers can help businesses to survive. Details: 061-275 6394.

□ Three books offering practical advice for small businesses on law, finance and marketing have been released by National Westminster Bank in association with Pitman Publishing. Available in bookshops, from £7.99 to £10.99, they are written by people involved in running their own businesses.

□ Adrian Beecroft, a director of Alan Patricof Associates, was elected chairman of the British Venture Capital Association. He will be pushing the government to relax its policy on capital gains tax.

With four months still to go, about 80 per cent of available stand space has been reserved at the autumn franchise exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham on October 18-20. Exhibitors will include Wimpy, Prontaprint, Perfect Pizza, Athena and Amtrak Express Parcels.

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Gower's county championship exit poses questions

Bold Essex charge comes up short in dramatic finish

By IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (final day of three): Essex (Spits) drew with Hampshire (4)

ASKED to make 300 to win in a minimum of 54 overs, Essex came within 11 runs of victory, their last pair at the wicket. Bold statistics, though, do not tell that they commendably kept going until the very last ball, Don Topley smiting two sixes in the final over. It was a terrific day's cricket.

At the outset, Essex were in the ascendancy. That they did not bowl Hampshire out after taking their first four wickets at scant cost was partly owing to an injury to Andrew but mostly because of the proficiency of Chris Smith and Gower. This enabled Nicholas to set a declaration which was an eminently fair one. Conditions were the most favourable for batting in the match.

For entertainment, this could hardly have been surpassed. For drama, it was. Gower, having batted delightfully in making only his second half-century of the season - his first six scoring shots were all fours - decided he had had enough. Indicating to the umpires that he had a calf strain, he retired hurt.

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

Championship table						
	P	W	L	D	N	Pts
Warwickshire (5)	12	6	2	4	0	36
Essex (2)	10	4	0	6	0	30
Leicestershire (1)	10	4	0	6	0	30
Derbyshire (3)	9	4	1	4	19	31
Sussex (13)	12	4	3	5	18	27
Gloucestershire (6)	12	4	3	5	18	27
Kent (16)	11	3	1	7	23	28
Nottingham (14)	10	2	1	7	26	30
Glamorgan (8)	11	3	1	7	25	28
Surrey (9)	9	2	2	5	17	23
Worcestershire (10)	11	3	1	7	25	28
Northants (11)	10	3	8	19	29	34
Somerset (15)	10	1	1	8	26	20
Worce (4)	9	1	2	6	22	19
Middlesex (7)	11	0	4	7	21	5
Yorkshire (10)	9	1	2	6	21	13
Hampshire (12)	10	1	2	6	21	13
Leeds (7)	11	0	3	8	15	24

Nothing more would have

Promising players must receive prime time

PRODUCING a tennis champion is not done by guesswork: it requires a system of support, of training and of management. It is true that certain individuals will always succeed where others may fail, but if we are to produce champions regularly, we need a structure to help young athletes achieve excellence.

Each year, the All England Club hands over the profits from the Wimbledon championships to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to be used for the development of tennis in Britain. Last year that came to £9.6 million but still we have no Wimbledon champion.

Why? The answer is simple — if a child shows athletic potential at school, he is seldom given the opportunity to develop

that talent. It is not a lack of facilities or a dearth of good coaches but a lack of time within the school curriculum to develop sporting talent.

You can have the best coaches in the world but, if a child is not given the time to practise and train, he will never become a champion. In this country, exam results come first, sports come second. Not that those priorities should be reversed but it is possible to marry academic and athletic achievement and gain success in both fields.

In Sweden, with the support of an enlightened government, they have learned how to produce winners. State legislation allows talented athletes the chance to train for five hours a day within the school set-up. The pupil is given the opportu-

nity to pursue his schooling and his training within a flexible framework to cater for his special needs.

We have to convince British educationalists to change. We should be telling British talented children that they can pass their exams, complete their academic or vocational training and do well in sport, and that we are willing to provide a caring environment for them to develop their skills to the best of their ability.

At Bath University, we introduced a sports scholarship scheme in 1975, which attempted to provide just such an environment for the elite academic athlete. Our philosophy is based on three things — participation, performance and excellence. By giving students an extra year or 18 months to finish

Why is Britain unable to produce a champion at tennis? **TOM HUDSON** plots the way forward for a successful and lucrative career on the professional circuit

their degree courses, we can release them from academic pressure and allow them to concentrate on their sporting goals. Of course, academic studies come first but, with the right management, it is possible to create well-educated world beaters.

The system of managing performance in a systematic way works. Bath University has already produced Malcolm Lewis, Walker Cup golfer and winner of the silver medal in the British Open in 1982; Martyn Hedges, the European and

Commonwealth gold medal winner in canoeing; and James May, the gymnastics gold medal winner at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland.

The same system applied to Bath rugby union club produced outstanding results. Six years ago, the club had one international player. Now, it has 16.

By broadening the base of young talent coming to the club, and offering them a complete development package from coaching to financial advice, Bath has a team

of champions — twice winners of the Courage Clubs Championship and six-time winners of the Pilkington Cup since 1984.

The same system can be applied to tennis, and it is simple. Take a dozen universities. Together with, and funded by, the LTA, build an indoor tennis centre in each. Then open that centre to the students, the tennis scholars and the public.

Staffed by a handful of specialist coaches and a director of development, you now have a regional centre of excellence. It should cost no more than £200,000 a year to run which, over 12 centres, will cost £2.5 million per year. That leaves the LTA £7 million each year to spend elsewhere.

By giving local children a chance to play and receive

coaching for free, the base of young talent coming in to the game is expanded immediately. By allowing them to train and mix with national champions, they are encouraged to succeed.

Success breeds success and, by providing the back-up of the sports science facilities of the universities and the structure of the management programme, you are taking the guesswork out of finding a champion.

Stirling University, under the guidance of Ian Thompson, is starting just such a programme. Since 1983, it has run a sports scholarship system based on the Bath model. It has already produced a Walker Cup golfer in Colin Dalgleish and two Curtis Cup players, including Katrina Lambert.

Now, it has an indoor

tennis facility, built with the LTA, and is taking tennis players on to the scholarship programme. With more centres around the country, it will be possible to set up an inter-collegiate league providing a high level of competition — along the lines of the American universities — to prepare these young men and women for life on the circuit.

Giving players an education encourages schools and parents to let youngsters follow tennis as a career. It might not guarantee a Wimbledon winner but it would at least give British tennis the best possible chance.

□ Tom Hudson is the director of sports development and recreation at the University of Bath

Leading seeds reach the men's semi-finals

Edberg and Becker on course for a final confrontation

By SIMON BARNES

WE ARE still on course for the final everyone has been predicting for the past 12 months but the two top boys took radically different routes to the semi-finals yesterday. Stefan Edberg had a three-set cakewalk against Thierry Champion; Boris Becker had a four-set nerve-jangler in which he beat Guy Forget 6-7, 7-6, 6-2, 7-6.

What a bizarre spectacle tennis provides. In what other walk of life would you see a grown man in a public state of uncontrolled naked rage, jumping up and down with fury, screaming abuse at himself and unashamedly praying? Becker did all of this but he had neither his own emotions nor the hand of the Almighty to thank for his victory. He only won because Forget provided us with the choice of the championships.

Choking, for those unfamiliar with the Americanists, is the fear of winning, the inability to swallow the sweets of victory. Choking is the fear of achievement. And Forget, always a man who prefers self-denigration to self-glorification, lacked the nerve to kill Becker off. So Becker killed him off; he is not the sort you need to ask twice.

Forget is a player custom-built to worry a Wimbledon favourite — a classical awkward cack-hander with a corking service. He hit 23 aces and Becker failed to plumb his mysteries for quite two sets. He even seemed wrong-footed



on service more than once, which you would think was impossible.

Forget unquestionably should have taken the second set as well as the first. There was a period when he was playing in a trance of excellence, from which he never wished to awake.

But Forget allowed Becker to wriggle off the hook and so he won the second tie-break of the match with two second services of extraordinary depth. Anyone can find the courage to go for such a serve: it is hitting them true that makes the difference between — well, a Becker and a Forget.

Becker, then, crashed through his areas of personal misery and blasted Forget to bits in the third set. You would have expected the fourth set to go the same way but Forget showed a decent amount of courage by turning the tables on Becker in the fourth set, leading 5-3 and serving for the set. But that only set himself up for the Great Choke.

With the game at his mercy, he put two easy volleys into the net and Becker was back and into yet another tie-break. Forget went 6-3 up in it and lost 9-7. At match point on his

own serve, he gave us a double. So it goes. Say what you like about Becker — and he looked ready for a straight-jacket at more than one point — he invariably plays his best on the biggest points. Extremes of adversity and incipient triumph bring out his best tennis, his greatest courage.

Forget said ruefully afterwards: "The best players have the best attitudes, the best serves, the best strokes. He's one of those, that's for sure."

Edberg had nothing at all to worry about in his own match. He was in scarpic form. He is a man about as big as Derek Pringle, and about ten million times more graceful. He simply stropped the razor of his volley against the poor best from the clay-court specialist Champion. "Moving is the key in today's games," Edberg said. "And I'm sure a yard quicker than I was two or three years ago."

Edberg managed to create the illusion, sustainable only by sportsmen at the peak of their powers, that his opponent was subtly conspiring in his own defeat. Every move Champion made seemed designed to show Edberg's game in the best possible light. Edberg has yet to drop a set in this championship. The question that remains is which is the better warm-up for their semi-finals today against their different opponents — a stroll in the park or a gruelling examination of the strength and endurance of mind and body.



Power point: Edberg serves on his way to victory over Champion yesterday

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